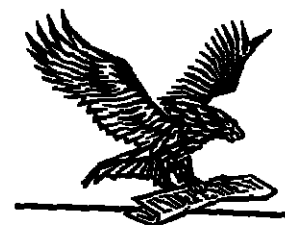


150 من الاصل

Wake-up call
Page 24
Manaman



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3378

MONDAY 18 AUGUST 1997

WEATHER: Warm (R 45p) 40p

MEDIA+ WITH 12 PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS
INGRAMS AT 60. TOO OLD TO BE A BASTARD

Media+
The autumn of Richard Ingram

64-PAGE SUPPLEMENT TODAY
THE ONLY OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY PLACES

24-PAGE SPORT PULL-OUT
Independent Fantasy Football
WIN A TRIP TO THE 1998 WORLD CUP FINAL

PLUS EXCLUSIVE MIKE ATHERTON INTERVIEW

Rush links up with Dalglish

Suicide MP: Call for wider probe

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

Labour's former chief whip Derek Foster was yesterday drawn into the controversy surrounding the suicide of Gordon McMaster, the Paisley South MP.

The current Chief Whip, Nick Brown, is to be asked to investigate allegations that his predecessor helped to squash a 1995 inquiry into vote-rigging and corruption in West Renfrewshire. The MP for that area is Tommy Graham, who was named with Mr Foster's former deputy, Don Dixon, in Mr McMaster's suicide note. Mr McMaster claimed Mr Dixon, now Lord Dixon, and Mr Graham had conducted a whispering campaign against him.

The latest twist in the saga was seized upon last night by Conservative opponents of devolution. They said Labour's failure to tackle rumours of whispering campaigns, vote-rigging and even drug-money laundering in the Paisley area bode ill for the future of a Scottish parliament.

The new allegations date back to 1995, when a three-member team was investigating allegations of vote-rigging in Mr Graham's constituency.

Derek Foster, then chief whip, and his deputy, Don Dixon, are alleged to have failed to take action against Mr Graham and to have written to a "hardworking and conscientious" member. His constituency party was suspended. It had been suggested that the letters were false, but Labour sources said last night that that

possibility had been ruled out. The Chief Whip would have the matter drawn to his attention, they said.

Last night members of the Scottish party suggested they had had their hands tied by inaction in London. "The Scottish party took all the action that it could take, and referred to London matters where it could not act, like the behaviour of MPs, which was outside our powers. We did report on that aspect to London, but there was no action taken as far as I know," said one member.

Mr McMaster was suffering from fatigue caused by ME, but rumours had circulated that he was gay, and might be suffering from AIDS. Both Mr Graham and Lord Dixon have denied making the allegations against him, though Mr Graham did say in a recent interview that Mr McMaster had a drink problem.

Allegations surfaced yesterday of links between Labour's Scottish general secretary, Jack McConnell, and Mr Graham. Mr McConnell was officially listed as Mr McMaster's researcher at the time of the earlier inquiry, though he has said that he merely used a spare security pass belonging to the MP and that the arrangement was made through the whips' office.

It has also been suggested that Mr McConnell might be interested in standing for Mr McMaster's seat.

Last night it seemed increasingly likely that Mr Graham would face disciplinary action after the completion of Mr Brown's inquiry. He could face the withdrawal of the whip - the same penalty imposed on Mo-

hammad Sarwar, the Glasgow Govan MP who was accused of trying to bribe an election rival to ease off on his campaign.

Irene Adams, the Paisley North MP, has handed a number of sworn affidavits to Mr Brown from senior party members who say Mr Graham was personally involved in a smear campaign against Mr McMaster. Mr Brown is expected to arrange a meeting this week with Mr Graham to seek an explanation for this version of events and his own.

Mr McMaster had backed Mrs Adams in a fight against Paisley's violent drugs trade - a crusade that made enemies for both in Labour circles. Mrs Adams had alleged that a security company, set up with almost £200,000 of public money as part of a regeneration scheme for a sink council estate, was being used to launder drugs proceeds.

Two councillors involved with the failed company, FCB (Security), vehemently denied any criminal links. Fraud squad officers investigated the company, and a report is being considered by the Crown Office. The Scottish Office also inquired into what had happened to £330,000 of public money paid to the firm.

Some Labour figures have claimed that Mr Brown's inquiry will be a "whitewash" if it does not cover all the allegations surrounding Mr McMaster's death. However, party sources said last night that his remit was a narrow one and would cover only the immediate circumstances which led to him taking his own life.



Question of priorities: A Gloucestershire batsman goes into tea during the match against Sussex at Hove yesterday. Photograph: Adrian Dennis

Test cricket may go to satellite TV

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

Test matches could move to satellite television as a result of a government announcement that cricket will not be among the main core of sports supported by its new academy of sporting excellence.

Last night the Government promised to consider proposals from the England Cricket Board for it to raise money by negotiating its own television deals. This could be looked at as part of consultations on which sports should stay on terrestrial television.

The move came after Chris

Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, decided that the new academy should concentrate on Olympic sports and on minority games.

It is bound to cause fury among fans, who have seen most other major sports transferred from terrestrial television to Sky Television. Test cricket matches are among the few big events still shown live on BBC television, and are included on a government list of events which must be shown on terrestrial channels.

Last night, Mr Smith's department did not attempt to rule out such a move or dampen speculation. A spokeswoman

said that if the ECB made a formal request for freedom to strike its own deals, it would be looked at as part of a review which had already been announced.

Earlier, Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the cricket board, said if his game was not to be covered by the academy then it should be given other freedoms, such as being able to negotiate its own television contracts. "If the Government says they are not going to help us through the academy and other things, then fine - just take us off the list of events. They can't have their cake and eat it," he said on the BBC Radio 4's *The*

World This Weekend programme. On the same programme, Mr Smith said he would be keen to discuss with Lord MacLaurin the ways in which cricket could be assisted. However, the new academy should help mainly those sports in the great-est need. "Where is it that in terms of international competition we aren't shining our brightest at the moment as a country? Where do our top athletes really need the support? That I think is in the Olympic sports and the non-commercial areas," he said.

The £100m national facility will be funded from the proceeds of the National Lottery.

Mr Smith is expected to announce at the end of next month which of three proposed sites - Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, Gamston in Nottinghamshire and Sheffield - will host its headquarters.

The decision, which will cut out cricket, rugby and football, drew criticism from the Conservatives who accused the Government of having an antipathy to team sports. A Tory spokesman said: "Our concept was to promote sporting excellence generally, and we think that is in tune with what people want."

Ramparkash recalled, Sport Tabloid

Montserrat prepares for evacuation

Phil Davison

Britain's Caribbean colony of Montserrat is preparing for what could turn into a total evacuation after scientists warned that the Soufriere volcano now threatens two-thirds of the island.

As weeping residents packed their bags, Britain and the local government offered a "voluntary evacuation package" to those wishing to depart and said extra ferries would be laid on from the "safe zone" in the north. Two Royal Navy helicopters were also said to be on standby.

There are an estimated 4,000 people still on the island - from an original population of 11,000 - most of them new refugees and confined to 12 square miles and a couple of hamlets in the rugged north of the island. Few want to abandon what was until recently an island paradise but there simply are not enough places to stay in the northern area of craggy cliffs. "You may have to squeeze a

bit," said Chief Minister Bertrand Osborne in a weekend radio broadcast.

The latest blow to the islanders, descendants of Irish immigrants and their slaves, came after the government ordered the evacuation of the central part of the island on Saturday, including the township of Salem. Those who had fled the capital, Plymouth, before it was buried under hot ash and rock two weeks ago, had built a new de facto capital in Salem, throwing up wooden shops, bars and other businesses in an attempt to recreate some form of normality.

"It makes the tears roll, I can tell you. It just breaks your heart to see these sweet people walking with their suitcases and cramming into churches," said Lonnie McArthur, a local resident, a volunteer teacher from Canada, herself now living on a camped in a friend's bedroom. "My friend Selma, with four kids, was forced out of her home in Plymouth, then Cork Hill, now Salem. Now she's walking



Black prospect: Destruction wrought by the Soufriere volcano has confined the 4,000 people still on Montserrat to 12 square miles in the north. Photograph: Carlos Hernandez/Reuters

around looking for space to sleep on a church floor."

The government offer was vague as to how much assistance evacuees would get and appeared aimed at shipping people only to neighbouring Antigua, where they will still face problems finding shelter. It said no one would be forced to leave. Most evacuees would

prefer to move to Britain but the British Government so far has not offered to pay their passage. Many lost their homes, businesses and belongings in the zone damaged by the volcano and cannot afford the trip.

They locked up their businesses on Saturday and drove or walked north, seeking space in relatives' homes, churches or

giant military-style tents already packed with earlier refugees. One family was seen sleeping in an abandoned car by the roadside. Yesterday, some returned to pick up more belongings before going back to sleep in the rugged north, an area of only 12 square miles and a couple of hamlets.

The island's remaining banks and post office, which had already been moved into private homes, are now off limits, making everyday life impossible.

"The scientists say the volcano's activity is escalating and that it could show more violent and hazardous behaviour," said Clive Mansfield, spokesman for the British governor. "The pyroclastic flow [an avalanche of red-hot gas, ash and rock] could come down the Belham River valley to the sea, threatening Salem, Old Town, Olveston, Flemings and Hope." Residents spoke of a widespread rumour that recent eruptions had destroyed the scientists' key warning devices, making future eruptions unpredictable.

Mir cosmonauts hit back at their critics

Helen Womack
Moscow

Russia's troubled Mir space station suffered yet another technical blow yesterday, as the crew hit back at critics who have blamed them for its misfortunes.

The Russian-US crew delayed a planned docking with its cargo ship because of a computer programming error. The manoeuvre was to repeat a procedure carried out on 25 June, when a different Progress cargo vehicle docking with Mir collided with the station's Spektr module, causing a loss of power in the worst accident of

the space station's 11-year history.

The error had nothing to do with Mir itself and could easily be corrected, Vladimir Solovoy, of Mission Control, told reporters. The station, launched in 1986 with an intended service life of five years, has been dogged by all manner of technical faults from a blockage in the cosmic toilet to a failure of the oxygen supply system.

Vasily Tsibilyev, the commander on Mir at the time of the crash, lashed out angrily against critics on the ground who have hinted he was to blame for the mission's mis-

fortunes, saying lack of finance had reduced the 11-year-old station to a state where accidents were bound to happen.

Commander Tsibilyev said he had only resorted to manual methods of docking the Progress craft on 25 June because his monitors for automatic docking were on the blink.

President Boris Yeltsin himself has been among critics who, not waiting for the results of an official inquiry, have spoken of "human error".

Visibly upset, Commander Tsibilyev, who has been suffering from a stress-related irregular heart beat, told a news

conference he and his colleague had risked their lives to keep Mir going. "We did not think about jumping ship, although in theory at that time we should have thrown everything aside and raced into the escape

capsule." Lack of finance was the real problem. "Unfortunately, many things we need on the station just aren't there. It all derives from Earth, from our economy, our affairs, our poor lives," he said.

The Communists used to seek scapegoats when things went wrong to damage the prestige of the old Soviet Union. It remains to be seen whether Tsibilyev and Lazutkin will be similarly humiliated in the new democratic Russia. But they have not yet received medals, which are usually given as a matter of course to cosmonauts on their return to Earth.

'Many things we need on the station just aren't there. It derives from Earth, from our economy'

Amritsar on schedule
Despite a demand for historic apologies and an attempt at disavowal by the Indian prime minister, the Queen may still visit Amritsar, the Sikh holy of holies, during her tour of India in October. Page 9

Counselling doubt
Counselling, the therapy offered to people undergoing divorce, bereavement and redundancy, can be useless when practised on its own, a survey has concluded. Page 3

Abuse warning
Warnings that the owner of two homes for the mentally disabled had a history of abusing residents were ignored by a council. Page 6

THE BROADSHEET

Arts	12
Business & City	13,19
Comment	14,15
Features	13
Foreign News	9-11
Gazette	16
Home News	2-8
Leading Articles	14
Letters	14
Weather	2

MEDIA+ TABLOID

Appointments	8-19
Concise Crossword	22
Listings	20,21
Media	3-7
Radio & TV	23,24

Read The Independent on the World Wide Web
<http://www.independent.co.uk>



NISSAN
YOU CAN WIN A NISSAN

DON'T DRIP AND DRIVE.

(THE NEW PRIMERA NOW HAS AIR-CON AS STANDARD.)

IT'S A DRIVER'S CAR. SO DRIVE IT. THE NEW PRIMERA

FOR MORE INFORMATION TELEPHONE 0345 96 96 66
EXCEPT EDUCATION, MEDICINE AND INDENT

news

significant shorts

Seven-year-old sets light to home after being grounded

A seven-year-old boy burned down his family home after he was grounded for being naughty, it emerged yesterday.

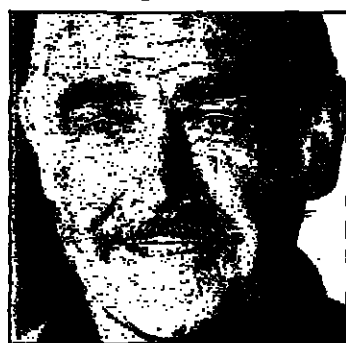
David Walsh was ordered to stay at home last Friday afternoon by his mother after he had bullied other children in the neighbourhood. But the boy became bored and set fire to a lollipop stick at the kitchen stove which he then carried into the attic of the family's semi-detached home in Hatherley, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. His mother Natasha, 25, was forced to evacuate David and her four other children as the fire took hold and destroyed the roof of the house.

"It has gutted the upstairs and even damaged part of the roof next door," Ms Walsh said, adding that her son had started the blaze because he was upset at being grounded. The fire destroyed the loft and ceiling where she and her children, David, Sharnie, six, Shane, five, and twins Bobbie Ann and Candice, three, have lived for the past three years. Cheltenham District Council is trying to find a new home for the family.

Man shot dead in parked car

A 31-year-old man was shot dead yesterday in a parked car near the centre of Bedford. The man was hit several times with bullets from a handgun as he was sitting in a white Ford XR2. Bedfordshire police said. A police spokeswoman said the victim was fatally wounded in the attack, soon after 2am, and died at Bedford Hospital. She added that the motive behind the attack was not clear. Police, who have appealed for witnesses, said a handgun was found near the scene of the shooting and was being examined.

Connery falls victim to road vandals



Sean Connery was recovering yesterday in his central-London home after a brick was hurled from a road bridge, smashing the front window of his Range Rover while he was driving and leaving him deeply shocked but not seriously hurt. The noise was so loud the actor thought it was a gun firing, his younger brother Neil Connery said yesterday.

The former 007 star, pictured, was returning home on Saturday afternoon from the set of his latest movie *The Avengers*, at Shepperton Studios in Surrey, when the vandals struck. He had left the studios early, complaining of stomach pains but insisted on driving himself home. Scotland Yard said Connery had not reported the incident but a spokesman added that a woman had recently complained of a brick thrown from a bridge above the A316 – the main road into central London from the studios.

Flying the flag for sport

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, yesterday ruled out banning the playing of the national anthem and the waving of the Union Jack at football matches and other top international events.

His pledge came after it was reported that his junior, the sports minister Tony Banks, had suggested that "God Save the Queen" should be prohibited because it stirred up aggressive nationalism on the terraces. Mr Banks told his local east London newspaper: "National flags should not be carried into the stadium... because then sport becomes almost an extension of war... I think you should glory in the sport, not the nationalism behind the sport."

But Mr Smith said: "The position of the Government is very clear: there is no problem at all with singing the national anthem, flying the Union flag at football matches or any other international games. We need pride in our country and in our country's team."

Law set to muffle car stereos

New legislation could be brought in to crack down on noise pollution from powerful car stereos.

Ministers are to consider whether to bring in laws to silence the growing number of "boom boys" who spend thousands of pounds on high-output stereo systems for their cars. A review group made up of civil servants is looking at the problem and will report to Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, in the autumn.

Several drivers have been prosecuted under various laws for playing loud music. But a spokeswoman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, said the problem was there was no single motoring law to deal with the nuisance.

Mystery oil slick kills sea birds

An air search has failed to spot an oil slick which has affected hundreds of sea birds from an important colony, the RSPCA said yesterday, as rescue workers spent their fourth day rescuing oil-covered birds from the east Yorkshire coast.

The stricken birds – mainly guillemots, razorbills and puffins – were first noticed on Thursday and since then almost 500 have been recovered from a stretch of coastline from Flamborough to Withernsea, and 22 have been found dead. Paul Stigloe, the RSPCA chief inspector, said that 489 birds, thought to come from a colony at Flamborough Head, have been recovered so far and cleaned up before being sent to wildlife centres. The cause of the oil spill is not yet known.

Lottery results

Four winners shared the Saturday's National Lottery jackpot of £8,282,620. The winning numbers were 2, 49, 20, 9, 19 and 38; the bonus ball was 11.

people



Frank Omogbehin: The last government did not look at my case on merit (Photograph: Nicola Kartz)

Rich and poor unite to fight expulsion of Nigerian priest

Frank Omogbehin, a Nigerian pastor seeking asylum following the assassination of his father and brother, has gained the support of 4,000 neighbours in his Brixton parish as well as 200 City executives.

The unlikely alliance between some of London's richest and poorest stems from Mr Omogbehin's time as a caretaker at St Helen's Church, Bishopsgate, in 1993, when many in the congregation got to know him personally. He subsequently moved to Brixton and founded a house church, which now has 80 members. The two, very different, parishes have joined forces and are urgently seeking a meeting with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

Mr Omogbehin first came to London in 1989, at the invitation of Christ Gospel Church in Brixton. He thought he was travelling on a missionary visa, but it turned out that he was wrongly issued with a visitor visa, valid for only six months.

Within months of his arrival in Britain, his father was shot dead in Nigeria by a sectarian cult which Mr Omogbehin had openly criticised. A year later, his brother died in "suspicious circumstances", and Mr Omogbehin was warned that should he return, he would be next.

Now Mr Omogbehin, 37, is living in fear. Last month he was served with a deportation order which could be enforced at any time. He believes that if he returns to Nigeria he will be murdered by the cult that killed

his relatives. "It's like living on Death Row," he said yesterday. "It's never certain as to the time or the date you're going to be executed until the news of the execution comes."

Fat from scrounging off the system, Mr Omogbehin works tirelessly in one of the nation's most underprivileged communities. Not for nothing did the City financiers who last week launched the Omogbehin Support Group choose as their slogan: "Frank a Cane and a credit – not a cost".

Mr Omogbehin, who lives with his wife, Juliet, 33, and two sons, Benjamin, six, and Christopher, four, is pinning his hopes on Labour. "The last government did not look at my case on merit, but with a stereotypical view that every Nigerian is fraudulent," he said. "That really upset me because a lot of times I rebuke people within the area who are putting in wrong applications. I deter them from ripping off the economy."

Both Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall, and the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, have appealed to the Home Office. Others have written to Mr Straw urging him to lift the deportation order.

Oneh, Victoria Stove, wrote: "It is hard to believe that we could be as inhumane as to disown responsibility for their lives when they have spent their entire time in Britain trying to encourage love and faith amongst the people around them. They are a wonderful example to us all." Clare Garner and Claire Scott

12-year-old girl's A-level results open the door to Oxford

A 12-year-old girl has had her place to read maths confirmed by Oxford University, after securing an A-grade in further maths A-level.

Sufiah Yusof (right) will begin her degree course this autumn at the university's last all-female college, St Hilda's.

She has matched the achievement of Ruth Lawrence, another child prodigy, who went up to Oxford at the age of 12 and graduated two years later with a First. She then received her doctorate at the age of 18. Sufiah heard on Thursday that she had been awarded the A-level grade she needed to follow in Ruth Lawrence's footsteps.

She lives in Northampton and is one of five children. Her younger brother, Iskander, aged 10, who did well in his maths and further maths A-level, also hopes to study at Oxford, where the family is moving to be near Sufiah.

Sufiah's father, Farooq Yusof, a freelance researcher, is reported to be approaching Oxford



colleges to see whether they are willing to take him this autumn, even though the university has filled all its places.

Iskander has already been offered places at several other universities. The family's oldest child, Abbi, aged 15, reached the quarter-finals of the British under-14 tennis championships last year.

Judith Judd

briefing

WORK

Job insecurity can cause physical and mental illness

Job insecurity can be a serious threat to health, according to a study of 100 civil servants whose department was the first to be privatised. Interviews with employees at the Property Services Agency revealed a "marked decline" in health and well-being during the period leading up to privatisation.

Jane Ferrie, who led the research at the International Centre for Health and Society at University College London, said the root cause of the decline in health was a general feeling of uncertainty and lack of control, which coincided with a time when staff were receiving conflicting messages from their unions, managers and the media.

The PSA employees were monitored before, during and after privatisation. Only 30 per cent of the PSA workforce could find a secure job after privatisation. This group enjoyed significantly better physical and mental health than those people who were still looking for work, or were in insecure employment.

Ms Ferrie said: "The study has provided statistical evidence that major reorganisation can cause a decline in both physical and mental health. Yet this decline is rarely taken into account when the costs of privatisation or 'down-sizing' are considered."

"Any deterioration in health has economic and social costs which end up being borne by society. This makes job insecurity an issue of concern to everyone."

Kate Watson-Smyth

HEALTH

Pollen in storms triggers asthma

Hospital admissions of asthma sufferers can rise by almost half when there are thunderstorms during periods of high pollen count, it has emerged.

Admissions of child asthma victims to hospital could increase by up to 45 per cent, while admissions of adults almost doubled when this combination occurred, according to research published today in the British Thoracic Society's journal, *Thorax*.

Asthma admissions in 14 regional health authorities across the country were recorded for the study, funded by the National Asthma Campaign. Measurements were then taken for air density and concentrations of airborne pollen.

The results showed that thunderstorms with high air density cause an increase in asthma attacks, even with pollen counts at zero, or low or moderate levels. But the effect on the number of asthma attacks was significantly greater during periods of high pollen counts.

Researchers believe that the humidity during a thunderstorm causes pollen grains to break, releasing starch granules, which are rapidly transported by the fast air movement of the thunderstorm and can trigger the attacks.

DEFENCE

'Ethnic weapon' nightmare ahead



Military experts are warning of a terrifying new generation of biological weapons, resistant to treatment and designed to attack specific ethnic groups. The Pentagon has produced an internal report, which warns that biological agents could be genetically engineered to produce new lethal weapons.

These engineered agents would be able to resist detection, identification and treatment.

Professor Malcolm Dando, of Bradford University's Department of Peace Studies, explained there was a growing scientific capability to interfere with genetics.

"The human species is very diverse with differences in genetics and blood groups, for example," he said. "It does not take a rocket scientist to work out that if you put that together with what we are beginning to develop in gene therapy, you could end up with an ethnic weapon."

There is no definite confirmation that such fearsome weapons have yet been developed. However, it is believed that Iraq considered using camel pox during the Gulf War on Allied troops without the natural immunities in the blood of locals.

RESEARCH

Homing-in on cancerous cells

A new kind of cancer-killing "nuclear missile" which can seek and destroy tumours with radiation has been developed by scientists. The weapon, devised by researchers at Nottingham University, is an antibody with a "warhead" in the form of a cancer-killing radioactive particle.

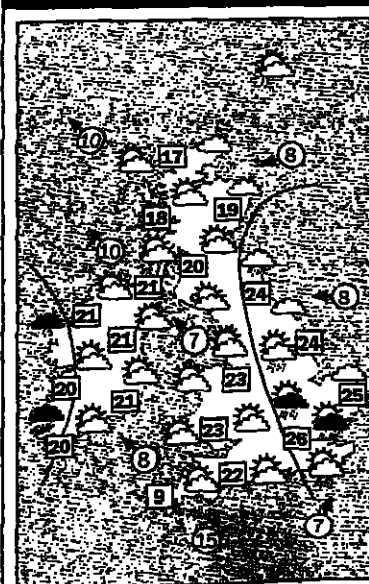
Antibodies, part of the body's own defence system, are able to home-in on tumours like a guided missile by locking on to a substance which occurs on the growth's surface. Radiotherapy can therefore be directed straight at a tumour, unlike a radiation beam, which kills healthy cells in its path as well as the cancerous ones.

The technique was first developed in the 1980s, but until now the antibodies used have been too big and cumbersome.

Now the Nottingham team, led by Dr Mike Price, has created a smaller, stripped-down version which is better at piercing a tumour's armour and moves round the body more quickly.

The team believes the mini-antibody will not only hit primary targets, but also secondary cancers which develop in later stages of the disease. A special camera can be used to track the "missiles" as they home in.

WEATHER



Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Aberdeen	12	W 10	100	0.0
Anglessey	12	W 10	100	0.0
Belfast	12	W 10	100	0.0
Birmingham	12	W 10	100	0.0
Blackpool	12	W 10	100	0.0
Bournemouth	12	W 10	100	0.0
Brighton	12	W 10	100	0.0
Bristol	12	W 10	100	0.0
Cardiff	12	W 10	100	0.0
Canterbury	12	W 10	100	0.0
Dover	12	W 10	100	0.0
Edinburgh	12	W 10	100	0.0
Exeter	12	W 10	100	0.0
Glasgow	12	W 10	100	0.0
Leamington	12	W 10	100	0.0
London	12	W 10	100	0.0
Manchester	12	W 10	100	0.0
Newcastle	12	W 10	100	0.0
Nottingham	12	W 10	100	0.0
Oxford	12	W 10	100	0.0
Plymouth	12	W 10	100	0.0
Reading	12	W 10	100	0.0
Sheffield	12	W 10	100	0.0
Southampton	12	W 10	100	0.0
Stirling	12	W 10	100	0.0
Swansea	12	W 10	100	0.0
Torquay	12	W 10	100	0.0
Walsley	12	W 10	100	0.0
Wolverhampton	12	W 10	100	0.0
Wrexham	12	W 10	100	0.0

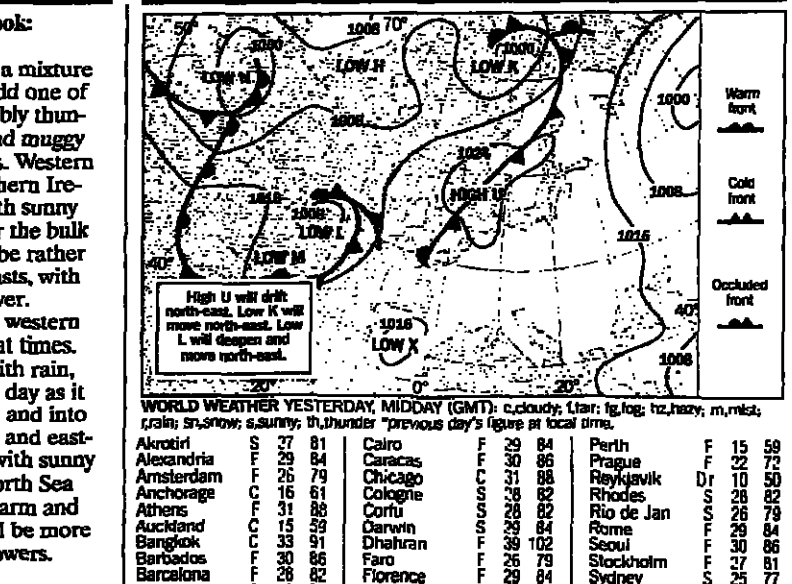
The British Isles

General Situation and Outlook:

Eastern parts of England will have a mixture of sunny spells and showers, the odd one of these being rather sharp and possibly thundery, it will also be rather misty and muggy especially towards North Sea coasts. Western parts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have a dry, warm day with sunny spells. This will also be the case for the bulk of Scotland, but eastern parts will be rather dull especially near North Sea coasts, with the risk of the odd light shower.

Tomorrow, Northern Ireland, and western Scotland will be breezy with rain at times. Cornwall will be also be cloudy with rain, which will turn heavier later in the day as it spreads across south-west England and into Wales. Remaining parts of England and eastern Scotland will be dry and warm with sunny spells, but it will be misty near North Sea coasts. On Wednesday it will be warm and mostly dry in the east, but there will be more cloud in the west with some showers.

Europe and the World



Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Amsterdam	12	W 10	100	0.0
Antwerp	12	W 10	100	0.0
Athens	12	W 10	100	0.0
Auckland	12	W 10	100	0.0
Bangkok	12	W 10	100	0.0
Barcelona	12	W 10	100	0.0
Beijing	12	W 10	100	0.0
Berlin	12	W 10	100	0.0
Bombay	12	W 10	100	0.0
Buenos Aires	12	W 10	100	0.0
Burgas	12	W 10	100	0.0
Calcutta	12	W 10	100	0.0
Cardiff	12	W 10	100	0.0
Canterbury	12	W 10	100	0.0
Chennai	12	W 10	100	0.0
Colombo	12	W 10	100	0.0
Copenhagen	12	W 10	100	0.0
Dublin	12	W 10	100	0.0
Edinburgh	12	W 10	100	0.0
Exeter	12	W 10	100	0.0
Glasgow	12	W 10	100	0.0
Leamington	12	W 10	100	0.0
London	12	W 10	100	0.0
Manchester	12	W 10	100	0.0
Newcastle	12	W 10	100	0.0
Nottingham	12	W 10	100	0.0
Oxford	12	W 10	100	0.0
Plymouth	12	W 10	100	0.0
Reading	12	W 10	100	0.0
Sheffield	12	W 10	100	0.0
Southampton	12	W 10	100	0.0
Stirling	12	W 10	100	0.0
Swansea	12	W 10	100	0.0
Torquay	12	W 10	100	0.0
Walsley	12	W 10	100	0.0
Wolverhampton	12	W 10	100	0.0
Wrexham	12	W 10	100	0.0

AA Roadwatch

London, Richmond Park between Kingston Gate and Hare Gate closed for roadworks until Oct 31. London, A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed until January 1998. Surrey, M25 J8-10. Lane closures both ways until further notice. Staffordshire, A50 Stoke on Trent. Major works in place until March 1998. Leicestershire, M1 J24 and Sawley Island. Work for the new Derby Southern Bypass. Greater Manchester, A58 Park Rd. Closed southbound between the A6 and Chadderton Way, Division via A6 and Bolton Road until Oct 24. Merseyside, A567 Bootle. Stanley Rd closed northbound until further notice. Tyne & Wear, A19 Newcastle area. Roadworks at Killingworth. West Yorks, M1 J47. Major long-term roadworks until Sept 15. North Yorks, A19 Thirsk-by-the-Sea. Roadworks. City of Glasgow, M5 J25. Cycle lane A739 Cardonald Interchange has narrow lanes both ways due to roadworks until Aug 30.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Amsterdam	12	W 10	100	0.0
Antwerp	12	W 10	100	0.0
Athens	12	W 10	100	0.0
Auckland	12	W 10	100	0.0
Bangkok	12	W 10	100	0.0
Barcelona	12	W 10	100	0.0
Beijing	12	W 10	100	0.0
Berlin	12	W 10	100	0.0
Bombay	12	W 10	100	0.0
Buenos Aires	12	W 10	100	0.0
Burgas	12	W 10	100	0.0
Calcutta	12	W 10	100	0.0
Cardiff	12	W 10	100	0.0
Canterbury	12	W 10	100	0.0
Chennai	12	W 10	100	0.0
Colombo	12	W 10	100	0.0
Copenhagen	12	W 10	100	0.0
Dublin	12	W 10	100	0.0
Edinburgh	12	W 10	100	0.0
Exeter	12	W 10	100	0.0
Glasgow	12	W 10	100	0.0
Leamington	12	W 10	100	0.0
London	12	W 10	100	0.0
Manchester	12	W 10	100	0.0
Newcastle	12	W 10	100	0.0
Nottingham	12	W 10	100	0.0
Oxford	12	W 10	100	0.0
Plymouth	12	W 10	100	0.0
Reading	12	W 10	100	0.0
Sheffield	12	W 10	100	0.0
Southampton	12	W 10	100	0.0
Stirling	12	W 10	100	0.0
Swansea	12	W 10	100	0.0
Torquay	12	W 10	100	0.0
Walsley	12	W 10	100	0.0
Wolverhampton	12	W 10	100	0.0
Wrexham	12	W 10	100	0.0

Read THE INDEPENDENT online every day on AOL. Call 0800 376 5376 for FREE software - quote "Independent".

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1996.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Austria	12	W 10	100	0.0
Belgium	12	W 10	100	0.0
Canada	12	W 10	100	0.0
Cyprus	12	W 10	100	0.0
Denmark	12	W 10	100	0.0
France	12	W 10	100	0.0
Germany	12	W 10	100	0.0
Greece	12	W 10	100	0.0
Ireland	12	W 10	100	0.0
Italy	12	W 10	100	0.0
Japan	12	W 10	100	0.0
Netherlands	12	W 10	100	0.0
Norway	12	W 10	100	0.0
Portugal	12	W 10	100	0

Counselling loses face in NHS review

Jeremy Lawrence
Health Editor

Counselling, the therapy offered to thousands of people undergoing divorce, bereavement and redundancy, is useless when practised on its own, a survey by a government health research body has concluded.

Britain's fastest growing talking therapy, counselling has been dubbed the "new religion". Demand has boomed in response to a growing belief that providing a listening ear can relieve emotional stress and prevent depression and other mental illness. The number of organisations offering training for counsellors has risen from 76 in 1990 to 545 in 1997, and the number of trained counsellors is estimated to run into tens of thousands.

The controversial report, by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, says the technique "has not been shown to produce sustained benefit in a variety of groups at risk". The finding was immediately challenged by the British Association of Counsellors who said it was "unduly negative".

The two main types of counselling are "person-centred", focusing on practical problems, and "psychodynamic", which involves a psychotherapeutic examination of the client's life.

About 60 per cent of GP practices employ a counsellor, with the Government paying more than two thirds of their salaries. The British Association of Counsellors' directory of counsellors in private practice lists 2,500 names, up from 800 in 1988, and the association's membership tops 15,000.

The NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, based at the University of York, was set up with more than £1m of government funding to assess new treatments. It says in its latest bulletin on promoting mental health, based on a survey of research literature, that the growth in counselling cannot be

justified. In bereavement, postnatal depression and support for carers, trials showed counselling by itself had no effect. "More attention needs to be given to the content and effectiveness of specific forms of counselling and the skills of counsellors before this approach is extended too widely," it says.

Mary Turner Bootle, editor of the bulletin, said: "Counselling is burgeoning... We are not saying it is a total waste of time but the evidence for its effectiveness is not there. There is an awful

lot that could be done to prevent people getting depressed but offering counselling on its own is like applying a sticking plaster without disinfecting the wound."

Although the report looked only at mainstream counselling, she said the same principles were likely to apply to specialist forms such as marital and careers counselling.

The NHS Centre is independent of the Government but its findings have influenced policy. Earlier this year a bulletin which highlighted the ineffectiveness of prostate cancer screening was followed by a government circular instructing health authorities not to set up screening programmes.

Yesterday, the Department of Health said that family doctors were best placed to judge whether counselling could help, but added: "Health authorities and GPs may now want to look again at their primary care priorities in the wake of this useful review."

The British Association of Counsellors said it had introduced tougher requirements to ensure that members were better trained and more reliable. Lack of regulation means anyone can give themselves the title of counsellor and set up practice. A spokeswoman said: "The report does seem unduly negative and it does not reflect our experience. We are talking about people's feelings which are impossible to measure."

Fenny Spearman, a counsellor at the Westminster Pastoral Foundation, said professional rivalry had led to a "subtle discrediting" of counselling by social workers and psychologists jealous of its popularity. But Dr Frank Furedi, a sociologist at the University of Kent, and author of *The Culture of Fear*, an investigation of public attitudes to risk, said counselling was "one of the biggest cons" of modern life.

"[Counselling] has become a cultural response to every disaster," he said.

Case history

Anne went to a counsellor to help her overcome her phobia of dentists, writes Jeremy Lawrence. The treatment was successful - she is now able to sit in a dentist's chair without being overwhelmed by panic - but it has left her with a bigger problem than it solved.

"The dentist who had been attempting to treat me suggested I get therapy. I suggested one of the professional associations, they recommended a local person and I went to see him. He was a counsellor who practised hypnotherapy and he asked full questions about my history and then regressed me to babyhood."

After three sessions the counsellor concluded that Anne's phobia stemmed from the fact that she had been abused at the age of two.

Anne said: "I went to pieces. I came home and I was in hysterics."

Over the next weeks Anne remained confused and upset. "It didn't trigger anything. The memory did not expand in the way you would expect if it were real."

She concluded she had been misdiagnosed and mistreated, and complained to the British Association of Counsellors with whom her therapist was registered.

Later she heard he had been struck off after complaints from other clients.



The show goes on: Paul Zenon, magician, fighting the forces stacked against his act in the Spiegeltent

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

Evil imps of the fringe find fresh ways to torment the artists

David Lister reports on some bizarre happenings bedeviling the performers at the Edinburgh Festival

Spare a thought for Oscar the Hypno-Dog. Half of a hypnosis act on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Oscar is in possession of extraordinary powers but no longer in possession of a home. His story is but one of the bizarre occurrences that can take place when 1,000 companies comprising 10,000 people and assorted animals take part in the Fringe.

Things went wrong for Oscar and his master, Hugh Lennon, when their landlady, Fiona Torrance, read their publicity surrounding their act and evicted them. "People might call me paranoid," she reasoned, "but I have never seen a dog stare like that. It has huge brown eyes that never blink. It's really unnerving. I don't like dogs at the best of times, and especially not dogs that play with your mind. I was worried that it would corner me in the kitchen and put me in a trance."

Hypnosis can also sort out the odd problem. At one venue, the Spiegeltent, there was only a 15-minute break between hypno-

tists Shane St James and the acclaimed magician Paul Zenon, not long enough to clear the audience. So Mr St James now obliges by hypnotising a member of the audience to be a "nude manager" and abuse people into leaving promptly.

Mr Zenon must have felt that the world was against him. He arrived at the art deco Spiegeltent to find it designed with mirrors positioned all around the tent so the audience could see the stage from every angle. "The magician's worst nightmare," he gasped when he arrived. Actually, it was not. The centrepiece of his act is being levitated as dry ice fills the stage, but with stage management being a little chaotic on the Fringe, the dry ice dried up one night and the audience saw the mechanism doing the levitating.

At least the weather was

good, exceptional for the Edinburgh Festival. But the curse of the fringe extends to flooding in a heartbeat. The Subway venue in the city centre was flooded out and four shows a day cancelled. "It seems the water board accidentally turned on a fire hydrant by mistake," said Faith Liddell, of the Fringe Office, said wearily.

Ms Liddell has spent much of her time being weary with officialdom. "British Airways has messed us up in a major way," she sighed, referring to the amount of costumes and props that seem to have been mislaid in transit. An aboriginal group, NND, are without their digger-dogs, even now assumed to be circling magically round on an airport baggage conveyor belt.

These are not just props," said Ms Liddell, "they have emotional and spiritual significance."

When props do arrive, they do not always behave. In the Russian play *The Suicide* at the Traverse Theatre the man about to commit suicide shows how depressed he is by suddenly seizing a plate and hurling it to the floor to shatter in pieces. Only it did not. It rolled around the stage, husband and wife trying to trap it with their feet, the plate evading all tactics. Husband looked at wife and ad libbed hopefully, "I think it's cracked."

Things can even go wrong for those protesting about all this avant-gardism. A group of respectable, elderly residents formed a demonstration outside the Palladium, a new venue at a converted church in a suburban street. The bar was open late and the acts featured nudity, sexual suggestiveness and bad language, most notably the Jim Rose Circus.

State of TV comedy is no joke

Paul McCann
Media Commentator

Two of comedy's old guard will attack television bosses at ITV and the BBC later this week for depriving creative talent of money and power.

Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, writers of shows such as *Birds of a Feather*, *The New Statesman* and *Goodnight, Sweetheart*, will make their attack at the most prestigious occasion of the television year: The James MacGillivray Memorial Lecture at the Edinburgh Television

Festival. Marks and Gran have described their speech as "biting the hand that feeds them". It will criticise BBC Director General John Birt and corporate bosses at ITV for starving producers, writers and directors of money and creative control.

They will propose that British TV mimic the American practice, where hits such as *Friends* have 40 per cent of their budget spent on writers. In Britain writers are likely to get no more than 4 per cent of the programme budget. American situation comedies are thought more successful be-

cause big teams of gag-writers produce up to 32 episodes of a show a year. By contrast, teams of one or two that produce UK sitcoms can only deliver eight to 12 episodes a year. This makes it a longer process for viewers to get to know the characters in British comedies and for the programme to become a hit.

Mr Marks told the *Observer* yesterday: "We are calling our lecture 'The Betrayal of Talent' because that is just what has happened in British television. 'We've got nothing whatever to lose by stating the truth. It

needs to be said since both the bosses and the system have badly let down the talent."

They say that the BBC is obsessed with factual programmes, and that ITV, whose comedy they think is in a much worse state than at the BBC, diverts funds from their creative talent to their shareholders.

Marks and Gran, who now run their own production company, Alamo Productions, want to see ITV and the BBC follow the Channel 4 model and commission programmes from independent producers.

Only women allowed to advertise sanitary device

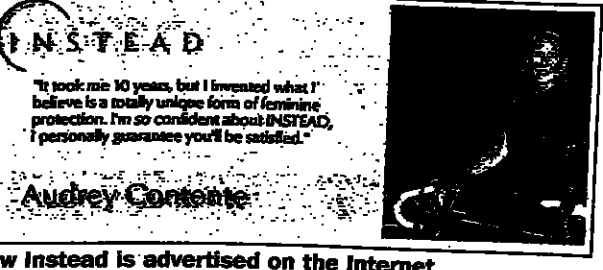
Clare Garner and John Carlin

A virtually unknown advertising agency has been awarded a £20m campaign for a revolutionary sanitary protection device - because the team is female.

The choice of Gotham Group, an agency founded and run by women, to dream up a suitable campaign for Ultrafem, the American company that claims to have invented a viable alternative to tampons and sanitary towels, called Instead, has sparked a debate.

Most British agencies were disqualified from the pitch at the outset on the grounds that their teams included individuals who had never experienced period pain in their life. To Lillie Goodrich, of Ultrafem in Connecticut (CRCT), the reasoning is simple. "Only women can communicate the benefits of Instead in a meaningful way," she is reported as saying.

Such an argument may wash in the politically correct world of America, but to many Britons



How Instead is advertised on the Internet

it smacks of pc gone bonkers. If only a woman can advertise all things menstrual, does that mean only an ethnic minority can work on an anti-racist campaign?

On the other hand, perhaps the selection of an all-women team is a perfectly sensible response to the dubious precedents. Those women who cringe every time another naff advertisement for sanitary protection pops up on their television screen may welcome the positive discrimination. Not least, Ali Large, managing director of Gotham. Ms Large argues that 80 per cent of advertising is aimed at women and 80 per cent

made by men, and that it is time women were given a chance to work on a product that only they understand. "A lot of existing (sanitary product) advertising with beautiful women driving fast cars to screaming music is fantasy land," she reportedly said.

A clue to why Ultrafem has selected an all-women team lies in the advertisements on the American Internet, where Instead is billed as "Feminine Protection That Only a Woman Could Create". The "soft, disposable cup" can be worn for up to 12 hours on light days and for twice as long as tampons on heavy days, according to the American advertisement. It can

even be worn during sexual intercourse.

Since the ban on tampon advertising on British television was lifted in 1992, there have been countless shots of carefree women rollerblading, swimming or skydiving accompanied by slogans such as "They work, you play". Alexandra Taylor, deputy creative director at Saatchi and Saatchi, does not believe that people should be gender-related to the product they are advertising, but in this case she would make an exception. Most ads for sanitary protection are, she says, "like wallpaper". "They are so unmemorable. You sense a man has written them because they haven't got a hold of the problem. The freedom of the product... That doesn't say anything."

She praised the exception to the rule: An award-winning advertisement by Barbara Nokes, creative director at Grey Advertising. "It said, 'The only good thing about a period is knowing that you aren't pregnant.' No man would have come up with that."

Health insurance

Call Prime Health and you could save up to £200 on your premium.

Saving money doesn't mean compromising cover. Unlike some other plans of a similar price, Primecare places no financial limits on surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees. And unlike some others, we even offer you a no-claims discount of up to 50%.

Why pay more than you need?
Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

Call **0800 77 99 55** now, or fill in the coupon for a no-obligation quote.

Title	First name	Surname
Address		
Postcode		
Phone (no. 011) (day)		
Evening		
Date of birth of the oldest person requiring cover		
Cover required: Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Single parent family <input type="checkbox"/>		
Renewal date of current insurance (if applicable)		
If you'd prefer a representative to visit, please tick box <input type="checkbox"/>		
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, (G1 1922) Guildford GU1 4BB. http://www.primehealth.co.uk		

MO6/57NG

news

Saudis silent on murder trial nurses' fate

Ian Burrell

Two British nurses on trial for murder in Saudi Arabia remained in suspense over their future yesterday as speculation about a possible guilty verdict was accompanied by a protracted silence from the legal authorities.

Deborah Parry, 38, of Alton, Hampshire, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, of Dundee, who are accused of murdering their Australian colleague Yvonne Gilford, had endured a tense week after the conclusion of evidence presented to the court in the Saudi city of Khobar.

Defence lawyers had presented new information regarding the mental competence of Ms Gilford's mother, Muriel, 84, presenting a copy of a medical report which they said "confirmed" that she was not mentally competent to demand the death penalty for her daughter's murder. This was expected to reduce the likelihood of the two nurses being executed if found guilty. But British media reports yesterday suggested that the court had made a secret decision last Wednesday to refer the case to the higher court. It was suggested that this meant they had been found guilty and advice was being sought for reviewing the verdict and considering possible sentence.

The reports were dismissed by Jonathan Ashbee, brother-in-law of Ms Parry, as "spurious sensationalism". He said: "The Saudi Ambassador to the UK... stated that the 'confessions' would not be relied upon in court in view of the way in which they were obtained, and any decision would be solely on any other evidence presented to the court. As we are all aware, no other evidence has been presented and therefore the only logical decision must be a dismissal of the case."

The Foreign Office could not yesterday confirm whether the case had been passed to a higher court. A spokesman said: "They wouldn't necessarily tell anybody that they had passed it on or if they had already reached their own decision. The bottom line is that there will be no verdict today."

Ms McLauchlan and Ms Parry deny murdering Ms Gilford. They claim they were forced to make confessions under the threat of sexual mistreatment from their interrogators and have since retracted their statements.



Off stage: Children taking a break from rehearsal of *Romeo and Juliet* at a Royal Ballet workshop in the Priority Community Centre, Acton, west London. Photograph: Kalpesh Lathiga

Censored: Violent videos ban for young offenders

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

Young offenders in institutions could be barred from watching violent videos in the light of forthcoming Home Office research which is expected to suggest that screen violence increases the rate of violence in aggressive individuals.

The results of the two-year Home Office-commissioned study, to be published in October, could put pressure on the Government to tighten censorship rules for those believed to be most easily swayed by depictions of violence in videos. Ministers are already considering a clampdown on the circulation of violent videos in secure accommodation for

young offenders as part of a package of improvements being examined by the task force on youth justice to make regimes more challenging and positive. Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, said: "We want to look at a whole range of reforms for the youth justice system and make sure they work effectively and positively. There is a need for rational and sensible action to be taken in relation to the whole system. If the findings of this research helps in that you can guarantee that we will use it."

The report, *The Effect of Video Violence on Young Offenders*, by Dr Kevin Browne, a forensic psychologist in Birmingham University's clinical criminology department, and Amanda Pennell, compared the reactions to violent material of normal youths with those of violent and non-violent offenders convicted of a range of serious crimes. The 120 youths in the sample, aged from 15 to

21, were questioned in detail about one video immediately after screening and reinterviewed after three and nine months. A causal link between criminal behaviour and unsuitable material in videos, films, literature or on television has never been conclusively proved or disproved by research. But Dr

Browne's research is thought to be the first to study actual responses to material on screen as opposed to viewing habits. Provisional conclusions were reported yesterday to indicate that while videos would not create aggression where it did not exist before, people who already have aggressive tendencies would commit violent acts more often. Mr Michael emphasised that "99 per cent of the population see portrayals of violence, including in James Bond films, and are completely unaffected", and that it was too early to judge the quality of the research.

He said: "The more you see on television or video incidents of violence, the less shocking it becomes. One would like to know whether there are some people who are particularly vulnerable to the images they see on video. The question is whether some people are more vulnerable to portrayals and don't make the distinction between fiction and reality."

A Home Office spokeswoman said that the British Board of Film Classification already took account of the fact that videos were seen in the home and therefore needed to be classified more restrictively than cinema films.

General Sir John Latham said in his report that television in cells could provide a calming influence and a powerful incentive to good behaviour, although the Prison Service suggested that not all governors would necessarily be in favour.

Security and logistical considerations will also feature in the review. There are concerns that some prisoners might attempt to use the components of sets for unauthorised purposes, while some cells lack mains electricity to plug them in. Ministers are also expected to tread carefully because of the potential costs of a nationwide scheme, which could be several million pounds.

The proposal has been welcomed by the Prison Governors' Association as a much-needed incentive to good behaviour, although the Prison Service suggested that not all governors would necessarily be in favour.

Security and logistical considerations will also feature in the review. There are concerns that some prisoners might attempt to use the components of sets for unauthorised purposes, while some cells lack mains electricity to plug them in. Ministers are also expected to tread carefully because of the potential costs of a nationwide scheme, which could be several million pounds.

The proposal has been welcomed by the Prison Governors' Association as a much-needed incentive to good behaviour, although the Prison Service suggested that not all governors would necessarily be in favour.

Security and logistical considerations will also feature in the review. There are concerns that some prisoners might attempt to use the components of sets for unauthorised purposes, while some cells lack mains electricity to plug them in. Ministers are also expected to tread carefully because of the potential costs of a nationwide scheme, which could be several million pounds.

... but cells could get own TV

Patricia Wynn Davies

Thousands of prisoners could get television sets in their cells as part of government proposals to lessen the risks of disorder in Britain's overcrowded jails.

The move sparked accusations from the Conservatives that the Government is reneging on its pre-election commitment to be tough on crime. Ministers have asked Richard Tilt, director-general of the Prison Service, for proposals on extending the existing *ad hoc* provision of televisions to all 135 jails in England and Wales.

There are already 2,000 sets in some jails, principally Winchester and Garth, Leicestershire, where governors have introduced their own local schemes for rewarding inmates' good behaviour. "We are looking at the possibilities of maybe expanding this," a Prison Service spokesman said.

James Clappison, Conservative Home Affairs spokesman, said: "We think prison conditions should be decent and humane and prisons should be a punishment. We think televisions in cells are not consistent with that. We think it's soft on criminals."

But the Leamington report, which followed the 1995 Parkhurst breakout, recommended television as a way to avoid potentially explosive situations in congested jails. About 200 prisoners are entering prisons each week and the total population stands at a record 63,000.

The proposal has been welcomed by the Prison Governors' Association as a much-needed incentive to good behaviour, although the Prison Service suggested that not all governors would necessarily be in favour.

Security and logistical considerations will also feature in the review. There are concerns that some prisoners might attempt to use the components of sets for unauthorised purposes, while some cells lack mains electricity to plug them in. Ministers are also expected to tread carefully because of the potential costs of a nationwide scheme, which could be several million pounds.

The proposal has been welcomed by the Prison Governors' Association as a much-needed incentive to good behaviour, although the Prison Service suggested that not all governors would necessarily be in favour.

Labour leaders plug in to the laptop line

Colin Brown and Fran Abrams

Ministers are to be plugged into the government line 24 hours a day under the latest initiative designed to eliminate gaffes and keep them "on message".

Laptops capable of performing instant rebuttal at any distance from Westminster and any time of the day or night are being handed out at a cost of around £66,000 per department.

The new system, invented by a special adviser to the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, is just the latest in a series of measures designed to ensure that both Labour MPs and ministers are always "on message".

Already, all government announcements must be cleared with Downing Street along with media interviews and even lunches. Next week the Chief Whip, Nick Brown, is to write to all MPs warning them of the dire consequences of breaking the rules.

Now a number of senior government figures will be able to receive briefings at the press of a button when they are facing difficult questions.

The system, known as Mint - for ministerial information network technology - is the brainchild of Joe McCrae, a self-confessed "computer anorak".

Advisers to a number of other senior ministers including Ann Taylor, Leader of the House, David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, and Peter Mandelson, minister without portfolio, have asked to be plugged into the system with their own laptops after a Whitehall demonstration by Mr McCrae.

The Tories are likely to scoff at ministers going "on line" on their mobile computers to answer questions, but Mr McCrae justifies the move to new technology by pointing to Labour's massive majority in the House of Commons. The election was won by Labour with the help of a high-powered rebuttal unit and a sophisticated computer system operated at Labour's Millbank media headquarters.

The "rebuttal" button will enable ministers to call up information on an issue to respond instantly to attacks on government policy, including the date of earlier criticism. "If ministers use the system properly, they should never be caught out," said Mr McCrae.

Mr McCrae said there would be no attempt to let ministers plug into the party information net at Millbank, but it will have similar features. The computer program will also enable a minister at the press of a button to call up the answers to questions in the House of Commons on any subject, his or her past speeches on the issue, and any press releases from the government press department.

Officials are being given computer training this week on the system and ministers will be briefed when they return in September from holiday.

Midland Private Banking

Interest rates for Midland Private Banking customers

With effect from 18 August 1997

	Gross %	Net %
Private Banking Current Account		
Up to £2,000	0.40	0.32
£2,000+	1.49	1.19
£10,000+	3.21	2.56
£50,000+	3.45	2.76
Private Banking Savings Account		
(monthly interest option)		
Up to £25,000	4.65	3.72
£25,000+	4.89	3.91
£50,000+	5.13	4.10
£100,000+	5.61	4.48
Private Banking Savings Account		
(annual interest option)		
Up to £25,000	4.75	3.80
£25,000+	5.00	4.00
£50,000+	5.25	4.20
£100,000+	5.75	4.60

Investment Management
Cash held on the Capital Account within our Investment Management Service will earn interest at the following rates:

	Gross %	Net %
Up to £2,000	0.40	0.32
£2,000+	1.50	1.20
£5,000+	4.67	3.73
£25,000+	4.91	3.92
£50,000+	5.15	4.12
£100,000+	5.63	4.50

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. Net: this is the annual rate of interest after the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings.

Midland Private Banking is a trading name of Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, a subsidiary of Midland Bank plc. This interest rate notice is issued by Midland Bank plc, PO Box 757, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 4SS.

Member HSBC Group

Catholic leader set to meet Unionists

David McKitterick
Ireland correspondent

Senior Unionist politicians are to meet Catholic church leaders shortly as part of a process which the Government hopes will lead to Unionists and Sinn Féin taking part in talks together.

The meeting, which is expected to take place in the next two or three weeks, will involve David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party and the Catholic Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Sean Brady. It is thought it will be the first formal encounter between these two important elements. Its significance lies both in this lack of precedent and in the fact that it is part of a consultation process undertaken by the party before it makes the crucial decision on whether to join far-reaching talks on Northern Ireland's future in a month's time.

Assuming the IRA's ceasefire continues to hold, the Government is expected to announce that Sinn Féin will be allowed at the talks table. This means the Ulster Unionists, Northern Ireland's largest party, will then face the momentous decision on

whether to participate in a process which includes their traditionally deadly enemies.

The general impression of most observers is that a majority of the Protestant population is ready to contemplate direct contacts with Sinn Féin, with most church leaders and captains of industry strongly in favour of talks. But this is by no means a unanimous sentiment, with opinion sharply divided within the realms of Unionist political activists.

The two next largest Unionist parties, the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and the UK Unionists, are very much opposed to direct contacts, though even in these quarters there is the possibility of agreement to take part in "proximity talks" in which participants need not actually come face to face.

The meeting with Catholic churchmen is to take place at Archbishop Brady's residence in Armagh city, with a number of bishops and some lay people also expected to attend.

Reg Empey of the Ulster Unionists said yesterday: "We are undertaking a widespread community consultation exercise with the broader commu-

nity and within our own party. We are speaking to all the main churches and to a very large number of community-based organisations, as well as senior business representatives."

Meanwhile, members of a loyalist order yesterday called off plans to march through the Catholic Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast. A Royal Black Preceptory church parade on Sunday and a second at the end of the month before a big demonstration in Lurgan, Co Armagh will stop short of the area. Leaders of the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter said the decision was made "under regrettable duress" because they feared there could trouble by nationalists opposed to the marches.

A large cache of bomb components was seized by armed Gardaí in a weekend raid in Co Cavan in the Irish Republic. The electronic detonator parts were concealed in a house at Crosskeys, near Ballyjamesduff. A 59-year-old Cavan man has been held for questioning under Irish anti-terrorism laws. The find follows the discovery of IRA firing ranges at nearby Scoistown, Co Monaghan earlier this year.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50

Saga Home Insurance is tailor-made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim, in most cases with no complicated claim form to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helplines for 24-hour domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover.

Call now

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save. To help us help you, please have all relevant details to hand when you call.

0800 414 525
Please quote reference ID8703

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturdays

SAGA
INSURANCE SERVICES

Saga Insurance Services would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may give you your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

Labour leaders plug in to the laptop line

Colin Brown and Fran Abrams

Labour leaders are plugged into the laptop line, with the party's top figures using the technology to communicate with each other and the public. The Independent reported that the party's top figures are using the technology to communicate with each other and the public. The Independent reported that the party's top figures are using the technology to communicate with each other and the public.

Taste for exotic pets puts snakes on the street

Kim Sengupta

The huge boom in sales of exotic pets has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the number of these animals - including snakes, scorpions and tarantulas - which have escaped from captivity and are on the loose in towns and the countryside.

While it is difficult to put a figure on the reptiles and amphibians which are on the loose, officials involved in re-capturing and finding new homes for them estimate a rise of between 150 per cent to 200 per cent in the last three years.

There are three main reasons for the upsurge in summer urban sightings of snakes and reptiles, according to wildlife experts.

Although the animals are

A man about to sit down on a toilet made a sharp exit after seeing a snake sticking its head out of the bowl

relatively content to snuggle up in the warmth of their tanks and boxes in the winter, when the weather changes, like humans, they want to be out in the sun. Heavy, hot weather makes humans lethargic, but for creatures more used to hotter environments, it simply makes them more active.

And just as traditional pets like dogs and cats are dumped in the street by owners going on holiday, so are the more exotic pets. Many of these owners also discover that they cannot cope with the financial and practical problems associated with keeping these specimens.

Instances of reptiles and am-

phibians turning up at unlikely places may seem like urban myths, but they are recorded by bodies such as the RSPCA and the British Reptile and Amphibian Society (BRAS).

In Leytonstone High Street, East London, a man about to sit down on a public toilet made a sharp exit after seeing a snake sticking its head out of the bowl. It was traced by the police to a private collector. The BRAS chairman, Mick Powell, said: "It was a Prairie King snake which had crossed four main roads to get there. The guy on the loo got quite a shock."

In just one day last week Mr Powell collected a Californian King snake, which can grow up to 6ft, after it had turned up at a house in Ilford, Essex, and a 3ft Western Hognose in a garden at nearby Dagenham. He was also making arrangements to pick up an anaconda, which can grow to 12ft, from Kent. At present he is keeping 15 re-captured snakes at his home in Dagenham, while new homes are found for them.

Mr Powell said: "There is no doubt we are finding more and more escaped reptiles and amphibians. In 1994 I had to deal with around 30 snakes, lizards and turtles. Last year it was around 100, and so far this year it's just over 50."

RSPCA inspector Mark Martin has to routinely deal with exotic fauna. Four weeks ago at a house in Enfield, north London, he found scorpions which, the Natural History Museum later declared, were *Buthus Taurus*, one of the most venomous in the world. He has also recently picked up a poisonous and aggressive 6ft Montpellier snake outside Walthamstow station, in north-east London, and an escaped Simoloyan Milk Snake at a pub in Highbury, north London.

Mr Martin has found security to be a major problem. He said: "I have actually seen spiders being kept in Tupperware boxes, and then the owners have been surprised when they simply climbed out. It is relatively easy

in many cases for animals like snakes to get out, and that is what they want to do in the summer.

Many in the animal welfare field believe the licensing systems for both buyers and sellers need to be re-examined.

Under the Pet Shops Act of 1951, shops do not need to have specialist knowledge of exotic creatures to stock and sell them, and thus, in many cases, they cannot pass on relevant information to customers.

The shops can get licences as long as they can satisfy that they do not pose a health hazard to the public.

Customers do not need need a licence under the Dangerous Animals Act to keep non-ven-

omous snakes, such as pythons. Even when acquiring reptiles covered by the Act, such as cobras, they do not have to produce the licence. The actual cost can vary between £50 to £200 a year, depending on local au-

thorities, and the police perception is that many collectors are flouting the law by simply not getting licences.

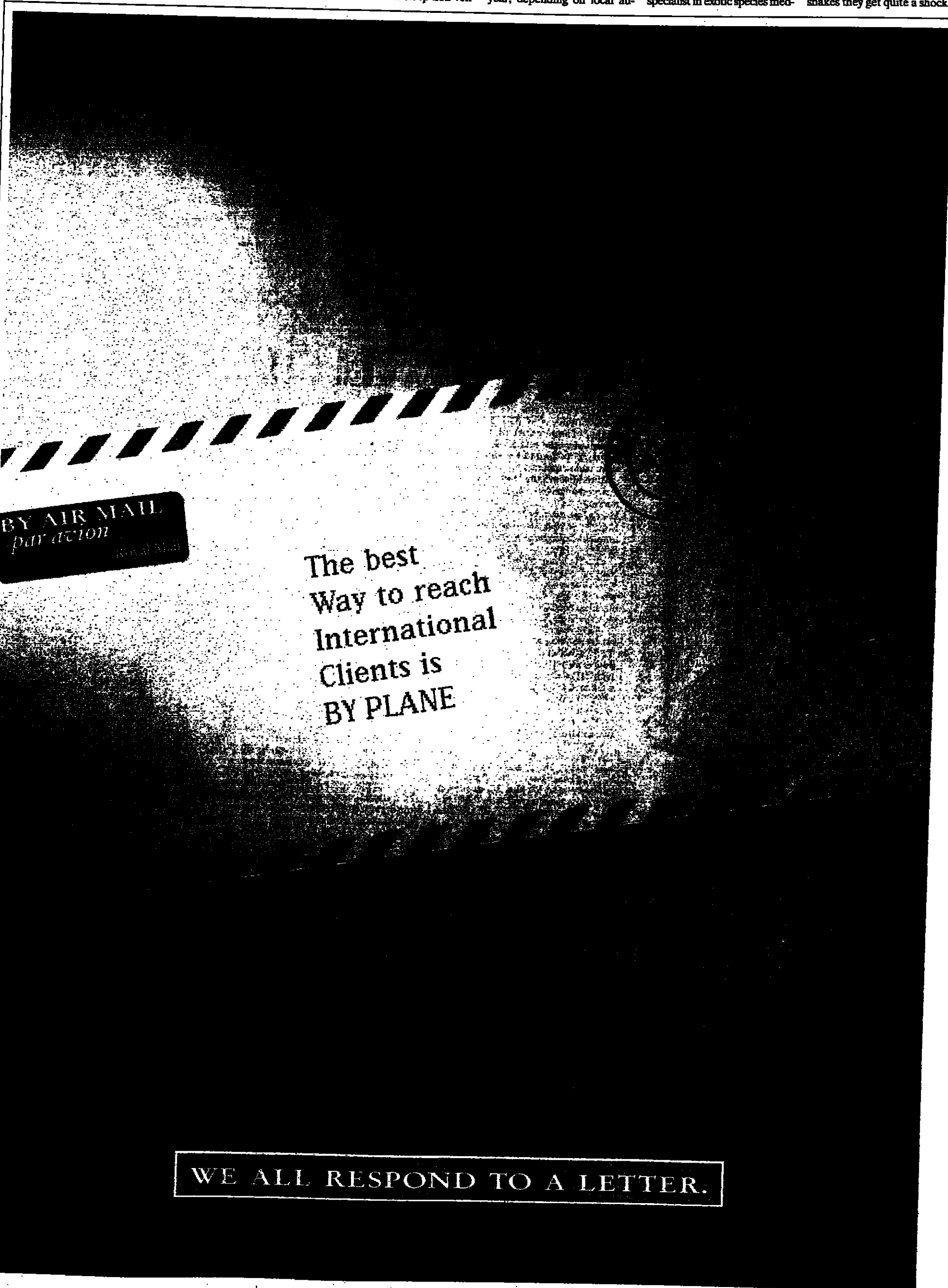
Veterinary surgeon Martin Lawton, one of the leading specialist in exotic species med-

No-legged friend: An American Grey Rat snake, handled by Mick Powell of the British Reptile and Amphibian Society. Photograph: Kalpesh Lathiga

icine, said: "The main problem is a lack of knowledge both by pet shops and customers. Most people do not know what they are taking on. There is the initial cost, for example it can cost up to £200 for a vivarium for turtles, and then there are vets' fees. There is also the cost of the food, you cannot just go out and get a can of Whiskas for an anaconda, specialist food is needed."

"A lot of these pets could also outlive their owners, that's the reason we advise they put them in their will. A python can live to 20 years, and something like a spurred thigh tortoise, which have become popular, can live to 100."

RSPCA inspector Mark Martin said: "A lot of people think that reptiles are hassle-free pets. They don't have to be taken for walks like dogs, or scratch furniture like cats. So when they realise just how much care and attention is needed to look after things like snakes they get quite a shock."



BY AIR MAIL
par avion

The best
Way to reach
International
Clients is
BY PLANE

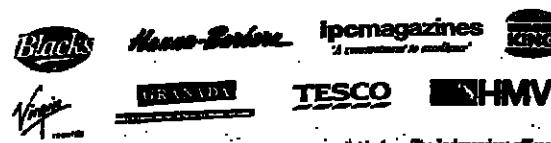
WE ALL RESPOND TO A LETTER.



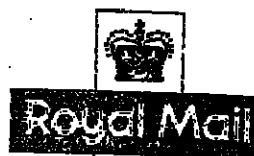
DAY 5:
£5 OFF WHEN YOU
SPEND £25 OR MORE
ON ANY GAME AT HMV

For your chance to
get a share of
The Independent's
£2.5 million
Student Passport To
Independence...

see page 45
in the UCAS listings.



OPEN TO UCAS APPLICANTS ONLY



news

Council ignored warnings of abuse by care home head

Christian Wolmar

Warnings that the owner of two homes for the mentally disabled had a history of abusing residents were ignored by Buckinghamshire County Council 10 years before an eventual investigation revealed extensive mistreatment at the homes.

Brent council, which had a resident in a home in Somerset run by Gordon Rowe, alerted Buckinghamshire in September 1983 that Mr Rowe had abused at least 16 residents there but the warning was ignored and no response was received.

Mr Rowe, who committed suicide last year just before being charged by police, abused a large number of residents at the two homes he owned and ran at Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire. Police found evidence of mental, physical or sexual abuse including rape against at least 40 of the 70 residents some with mental ages as low as three, in the Stoke Poges homes. Three other care workers were convicted of abuse last year and two, including Mr Rowe's widow, Angela, were sent to jail.

Brent sent the warning to

Buckinghamshire just as Mr Rowe was applying for a licence to run the homes but no action appears to have been taken. Mike Boyle, Brent's social services director, has now written to Buckinghamshire which, following pressure from the new Government, has launched an inquiry into the affair which first came to light when an internal Buckinghamshire report was published by *The Independent*.

Mr Boyle said yesterday: "This was not a matter of a social worker saying there were a few allegations. It is clear from the file that there was clear proof

of the abuse." Mr Boyle says that there is an important issue at stake: "People responsible for care homes who are worried about potential abusers should not wait to get the same standard of proof that a criminal court requires. It was clear that there was sufficient evidence to refuse Mr Rowe a licence."

Brent also warned the then Department of Health and Social Security about its findings but appeared to have likewise received no reply from them.

"Tory-controlled Buckinghamshire had been reluctant to undertake an inquiry arguing that

it had already learnt the lessons of the affair. Buckinghamshire's report on the allegations was completed in June 1994 but the council's social services department kept its findings confidential.

The new inquiry was only launched in July after pressure from Paul Boateng, the junior health minister, who wanted to know why the council had allowed the homes to continue operating long after the abuse was discovered and whether there are wider lessons to be learnt for the care of people with learning disabilities.

However, Mr Boyle is concerned that the remit of the Buckinghamshire inquiry is too narrow. He said: "They are only looking at events in 1993 and 1994, but it is clear that the abuse had been going on for 10 years and other authorities may also have issued warnings."

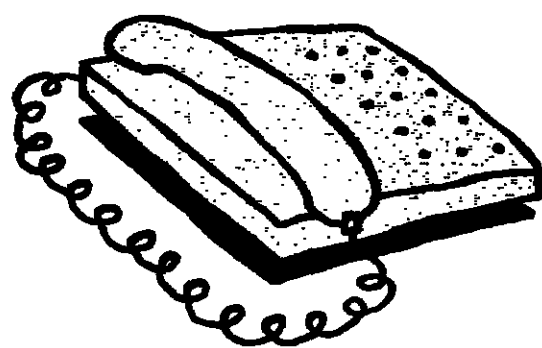
A spokesman from Buckinghamshire said that the authority could find no trace of the Brent correspondence in its files. He added: "At the time, we asked generally for any evidence about why we should not register Mr Rowe but received none."

"OCH AYE
YE CAN SAVE
YERSELF
A FORTUNE."

"EEE CHUCK
THAT MERCURY
SAVES A
BOB OR TWO."

"WHY AYE
IT'S A CANNY
MOVE THAT
MERCURY."

"DASHED GOOD
SAVINGS
FROM THOSE
CHAPPIES."



GUARANTEED SAVINGS
ON YOUR CALL BILLS
OR DOUBLE YOUR
MONEY BACK. AND THAT'S
IN ANY LANGUAGE.

From Land's End to John O'Groats, you can make great savings when you switch to Mercury.

For instance, with Mercury UK-Call you can save up to 33% on your long distance calls against BT. In fact, we're so confident that you'll save money on your call bill with Mercury (even against PremierLine and Friends and Family), that if you don't, we'll refund double the difference.

For details call the number below.

Mercury UK-Call
FreeCall 0500 500 366

Prices and savings correct at 30/06/1997, compared against BT's basic rates for calls of 5 minutes. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £3.75 (inc. VAT). Price Pledge terms apply against BT's basic rates and discount schemes, excluding line rental and temporary promotional offers. Not available on Calling Card or business packages.

Comedy supergroup head for a live Friday night reunion



Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

Channel 4 is planning a "supergroup" of comedians in a reunion of one of its most influential comedy programmes as part of the celebrations of its 15th anniversary.

The channel has asked Pozzitive Productions to try to gather Ben Elton, Harry Enfield, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie together to record a special reunion of its Eighties comedy show *Friday Night Live*.

The 75-minute show, which is likely to be recorded as if live, is scheduled to be shown in December if the comedians, who have largely moved on from stand-up comedy and sketch shows, can clear their diaries on the same date.

Friday Night Live, produced by Geoffrey Perkins, now head of comedy at the BBC, attained considerable status during its heyday from 1986-88. Hosted by Ben Elton, it took the form of a cabaret show and launched the careers of a new type of politically correct but brash comedian.

The programme holds a special place in the heart of Channel 4 because it was the broadcasters' first move into the realm of the alternative comedy that now makes up so much of its output.

"Since they last did the show they've all become so big and so famous getting them together will be a challenge," said Geoff Posner, the original director of the show.



"They're all like brand names now, writing books, plays and appearing in films. I don't think anybody quite realised the importance of what we had until after the show was finished."

Mr Posner, who was also the director of the innovative BBC alternative sitcom *The Young Ones* believes *Friday Night Live* can take some of the credit for the subsequent comedy club boom that rolled across Britain in the late Eighties and early Nineties. "Ten or 12 years ago there were very few comedy clubs in Britain and there was no real route for comedians to get exposure."

Les Keen, a stand up on the national circuit who is just breaking into TV agrees that *Friday Night Live* had a seminal influence on a generation of comedians: "It was that show that got me interested in doing that kind of comedy," he says. "Although there had been *The Young Ones* and *The Comic Strip* there hadn't really been any alternative stand up and there weren't any clubs to see it in. There's almost too much stand-up comedy on TV now which is a pity because it's hard to get it right and *Friday Night Live*'s format has never really been bettered."

As well as boosting the career of Harry Enfield, whose Loadsamoney character was an enormous hit, the show was the first to air Julian Clary and Jo Brand, and it gave Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson of *The Fast Show* their first taste of writing.



Very alternative: Ben Elton (main photograph) compered 'Friday Night Live' which featured Stephen Fry, and gave viewers a first glimpse of Harry Enfield as Kebab shop owner Stavros (above left)

Greenpeace protesters end oil rig action

Kate Watson-Smyth

Five Greenpeace protesters who attached themselves to a British Petroleum oil rig during a week-long demonstration, yesterday ended their action.

As the remaining protesters prepared to leave the Stena Dee installation, off the Shetland Islands, police arrested four of them. The fifth was believed to have boarded the vessel MY-Greenpeace, according to a spokesman for the group.

He said the protesters were being taken off the Stena Dee because of "logistical constraints" and safety reasons but denied the demonstration had been a failure.

"We intend to apply considerable resources to the campaign in future, and we are still pursuing our legal challenge against exploration," he said.

Gerry Doyle, communications director for Greenpeace, said later that four of its members had been charged with

breach of the peace and taken to Aberdeen.

They are due to appear in court later today.

BP said the occupation had slowed down work on the installation but not stopped it.

"The delay has caused us to suffer financial loss," a spokesman said, "But we are

just pleased the unlawful action ended without injury. Our priority was to get these people off our rig."

Greenpeace began landing campaigners on the rig, destined for the Foinaven field, on August 9. But yesterday it notified its intention to leave the rig, saying the withdrawal did not indicate "defeat".

"Safety could no longer be guaranteed if the occupation was continued," said Chris Rose, Greenpeace's UK deputy executive director.

He added: "We have done as much as we can here without compromising the safety of our activists or others."

DAILY POEM

Kovalam

By Jeet Thayil

*Saffron sun over Kovalam,
Slum waters gleam, telling me
How the dream finally ended:
The journey half-done, us undone.*

*Ancient moonlight on the tracks
Took us in a rush to confess
Our impossible pilgrimage.
At the station, a wayward cross.*

*After all that overflowing,
Even misery was a kind of peace.
I sat at the edge of a world,
At the end of a life, smoking*

*Endless cork-tipped cigarettes.
The sun - fat, old, obscene -
Dipped its rear into the bleak
Water, nearby a girl's high cry.*

This poem concludes our selection from the special issue of Alan Ross's *London Magazine* (£7.95) celebrating 50 years of Indian independence. Subscriptions to the *London Magazine* cost £28.50 per year from 30 Thurloe Place, London SW7.

If we're
faster
and
cheaper
than the AA or RAC
why join them?
call free today on
0800 001 353
quote ref. no. 87 808 and your credit/debit card number.
Green Flag
Motorway Assistance
WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU
http://www.greenflag.co.uk

informative:

Unauthorised Overdraft

With effect from 18 August 1997, the Unauthorised Overdraft interest rate on the Cheque Account and Premier Cheque Account is being increased from 22.50% p.a. (EAR 24.9% variable) to 22.92% p.a. (EAR 25.4% variable).

first direct

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc Member HSBC Group

هكذا من الاصل

arnings of
ne head

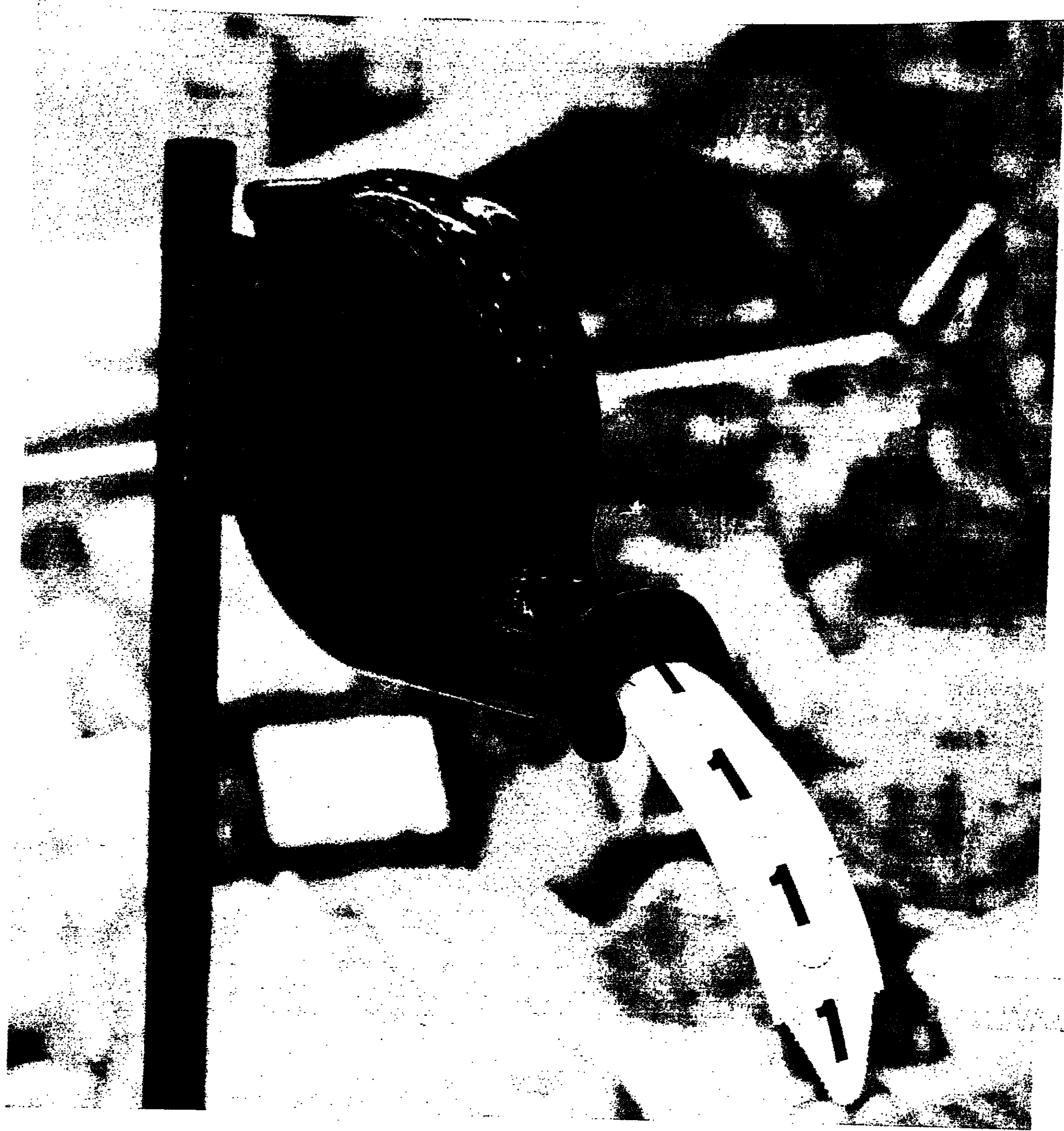


l rig action

formative:

Unauthorized Overdraft

first direct



the
“how to make
every customer
feel like your
only customer”
solution

Have you ever phoned your own company, pretending to be a customer? It's an illuminating experience. Did they understand your problems or were you merely "processed"? Most importantly, did the person who answered have the power to help you? If your answer is no, then read on.

Yes, we can do that for you right now.

Our experts can set up systems that link your people to customer records, company information and powerful datamining tools. Instead of being passive message takers, they'll be able to make

on-the-spot decisions based on all the facts necessary.

Fewer waits, more sales.

Actually, 95% of dissatisfied customers will return if they feel that you dealt well with their complaints. In other words, people will forgive almost anything if they get great service.

Want to impress your customers? Become one of ours. Visit us at www.ibminfo.com/uk3/ or call us on 0800 675 675 (quoting INT2)



Solutions for a small planet

news

Invitation to let enemies on board leaves 'Eye' unmoved

Paul McCann

In a tale fitting for its own Street of Shame column, Lin Cook, widow of Peter Cook, says that she is going to sell the 40 per cent share of *Private Eye* magazine she inherited from her husband because people on the magazine have not been nice to her.

Mrs Cook told a Sunday newspaper that she would be happy to sell her shares to one of the *Eye*'s many enemies, even Mohamed al-Fayed, owner of Harrods and of the ailing rival magazine *Punch*.

Peter Cook became a majority shareholder in *Private Eye* after the closure of his satirical club, the Establishment, in 1962.

After his death in 1995 it was thought that all his 65 per cent share would go to Lin Cook and it was reported, mainly by foes of the *Eye* such as the gossip columnist Nigel Dempster, that Mrs Cook would bring modern management to bear on the famously eccentric magazine.



Private Eye: Has a reported turnover of nearly £3m

As it turned out, Cook left 26 per cent of the magazine to his sisters, although division of the shares were subject to a legal challenge.

"I knew he [Peter] was very fond of the *Eye* and I was too," Mrs Cook was reported as saying. "I sort of thought Peter would not have wanted to sell the *Eye*. But because of their totally careless

attitude towards me, I just feel that Peter loves me and my welfare would mean more to him than anything else and it would be OK."

However, it is unlikely to be: So farewell then Ian Hislop, editor/I am a banana/that was your catchphrase just yet.

The magazine's articles of association dictate that other

shareholders, including Cook's sisters and Sir Dirk Bogarde and Jane Asher, be given first refusal if there is any sale.

Mr Hislop dismissed the threat of a new, hostile, Lord Gnome: "Legally she can't, as I understand that she is bound by the articles of association. And practically she can't, because I'll burn down the building."

The source of Mrs Cook's dispute with the *Eye* is unclear, but she has a reputation as a difficult woman and has fallen out with her late husband's relatives. She was reportedly unhappy to find a jazz band rehearsing in the magazine's offices when she first visited after his death.

Private Eye's finances are at present relatively robust, with a reported turnover of nearly £3m. In contrast, Mr Fayed's reborn *Punch* magazine has failed to make a sales impact. Despite a recent redesign planned to give it mass-market appeal, *Punch*'s publishing frequency was cut this month from weekly to fortnightly.



Joking apart: The late Peter Cook and his wife, Lin, who is now unhappy with her inheritance

Over the last year BT has cut the cost of calls to every country in the world.



The cost of reaching some destinations is now 40% less than a year ago. Join BT's PremierLine and Friends & Family schemes and you can save an extra 25% on top.

For information on BT's discounts call 24 hour **Freefone 0800 003 800**.

The cost of calling keeps on falling **BT**

PremierLine is suitable for customers spending more than £45 per quarter on calls and costs £6 per quarter. Excludes BT public payphone and BT Chargecard calls. Friends & Family is not available with the Light User scheme.

Councils lodge a Masonic complaint

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

Freemasons have been found not to have declared their Masonic links in an apparent attempt to influence a local authority planning decision.

The investigation by the local government ombudsman into Bedford Borough Council is only the second time that Masonic links in a local authority have been proved to have resulted in maladministration.

The case is part of a rising number of complaints alleging misuse of Masonic influence in local authorities; there are around a dozen such cases each year, compared with one or two in the early Nineties. But many complaints are impossible to prove, or are mistaken, and only in one previous case, in Castle Point, Essex, last year has maladministration been proved.

The increase is thought to be partly a result of greater public awareness of Freemasonry and partly because councils have begun to interpret the guidance on Freemasonry more strictly, ensuring that Freemasons declare their interest. The Code of Guidance says that Freemasonry might be something that needs to be declared.

The Bedford case concerned an application for planning permission by a local company, given the name "Diatek" in the ombudsman's report, which was seeking to relocate to the town. The application was turned down and it later emerged that another company seeking to move to the site eventually succeeded.

Diatek complained to the ombudsman that Bedford's development control committee

had deferred its decision in order to allow the second company to buy the site. In particular it complained about a meeting held between representatives of the company and a group of councillors which included Nigel Sparrow, a Freemason.

Mr Sparrow, who is no longer a councillor, was in the same Masonic lodge as the company's directors and failed to declare his interest. Jerry White, the ombudsman, found Mr Sparrow guilty of maladministration, saying, "knowing that a councillor and a planning applicant are... members of the same lodge" would lead the public to "think that such a private relationship might influence the member to such an extent he should not take any part in the planning process". In fact, Mr Sparrow went to a Conservative group meeting where he lobbied to have Diatek's application deferred. He also went to the development control meeting although he was not a member of the committee. The ombudsman also criticised Mr Sparrow for failing to declare an interest over the fact that he lived near one of the application sites.

Mr White decided, however, that the council would probably have reached the decision in any case, and therefore no injustice had been suffered by Diatek.

In the Castle Point case, Mr White found that three Tory councillors - two Freemasons, William Sharp and Ron Sweeting, and the wife of a Freemason, Betty Wood - had failed to declare their interest and withdrawn from meetings which gave planning permission to developers who were also Freemasons, some in the same lodge.

Blood service review attacked

A group of haematologists has warned that the national reorganisation of blood services currently under way is having a damaging effect on services in their region, it emerged yesterday.

A leaked letter from consultants in Oxford has led Liberal Democrats to claim that the National Blood Authority is making "misleading" claims about the standard of services under their control. The letter says consultants have problems obtaining special blood products on time for some patients dependent on transfusions.

It is also claimed that some children have been given adult blood products due to a shortage of resources. Dr Evan Harris, the Lib Dem health spokesman, has called for the resignation of the NBA's chairman, Sir Colin Walker, and wants an independent review into clinical concerns.

Early this week Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced a review

into concerns about proposals for the transfer of bulk processing and testing of blood from Liverpool to Manchester.

The transfer from Merseyside is part of a shake up of the NBA which involves amalgamating some of the centres to make the service more efficient and to improve quality standards.

Three similar proposals have already been completed - from Lancaster to Manchester, from Oxford to Bristol, and from Cambridge to Brentwood.

Sir Colin welcomed Mr Dobson's announcement and claimed that in all three areas "the quality of our service to hospitals has improved".

But Dr Harris said: "Either the NBA has no idea of the problems their changes have caused, or they are deliberately misleading donors, patients and politicians when they claim that service quality has improved in Oxford. Those at the sharp edge of delivering patient care are not getting a satisfactory service."

هكذا من الأصل

Ghost of Raj massacre haunts the Queen's visit to Amritsar

Peter Popham
New Delhi

Despite a demand for apologies, a controversy over socks and a frank attempt at disavowal by the Indian Prime Minister, the Queen may still visit the Sikh religion's holy of holies during the royal tour of India in October.

Amritsar in the Punjab, close to the border with Pakistan, is the site of the Golden Temple, the holiest temple of Sikhism. Its rich and tragic history, and the large Sikh community in the United Kingdom, make it a natural choice for the royal itinerary.

But Amritsar is also where one of the worst atrocities in the history of British India took place, when on 13 April 1919 a platoon of British infantry fired into a crowd of peaceable demonstrators, killing at least 372 people and injuring 1,200. In the aftermath, Gandhi initiated the civil disobedience campaign which was so important in precipitating the end of British rule.

Last month, Professor Jagmohan Singh, the nephew of an Indian freedom fighter hanged by the British for murder in 1931, demanded that the Queen should take advantage of her Indian trip to apologise for the massacre, particularly if she visits Amritsar. Without endorsing this demand, the Indian Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, referred to it obliquely in a report in a British Sunday newspaper when he urged the Queen to cross Amritsar off her itinerary. "We have suggested as a government to the British that it would be much better if she doesn't visit Amritsar," he was quoted as saying. "Particularly when such issues [that is, the question of an apology] have been raised."

As the Queen and her representatives are not in the custom of going around apologizing for things - the Prince of Wales at the Hong Kong handover, for example, was notably uneloquent about the British contribution to China's historic opium problem - a possible compromise has been suggested, whereby the



Changed status: Delhi's statue of George V, banished to Coronation Park. Below, the Golden Temple in Amritsar

Main photograph: Andrew Buurman

Queen would also visit the site of the Amritsar massacre, Jallianwalla Bagh Memorial Park. A spokeswoman for the British High Commission in New Delhi confirmed that a reconnaissance team from Buckingham Palace had visited both the Golden Temple and the memorial park. She said: "Amritsar was one of the possible venues for the visit that was put into the programme because both the Indian and the British governments thought it would be a good thing." The final decision had yet to be taken.

The Sikh clergy have made it

clear that if the Queen's visit to the Golden Temple goes ahead, they will bend over backwards to make her comfortable. At most religious sites in the East one has to remove shoes; at the Golden Temple the socks have to go, too, and feet have to be washed in the pool. By special dispensation, however, the Queen will be spared this indignity, providing only that she changes into a fresh pair of socks that have been laundered since their previous contact with leather. She will also be allowed to keep her usual hat on.

Sikh dissenters, complain-

ing of a "colonial hangover" at the top of the organization, point out that prime ministers, presidents and even the Mogul emperor Akbar all entered the temple barefoot. This will be the Queen's first visit to India in 14 years, and her first extensive tour since 1961. In Delhi she will find that the splendid canopy that once sheltered a huge statue of George V is still empty: after Independence, the statue was removed to the desolation of Coronation Park, in the far north of the capital, where almost everyone has forgotten about its existence.



significant shorts

Paris and Strasbourg put on pollution alert

Officials have issued new pollution alerts for Paris and Strasbourg. Public health officials said the two cities registered pollution levels at "level two", the midpoint on the official scale and one step below the level requiring curbs on private cars and free public transport.

Officials in Paris said the alert would probably last through today, when hundreds of thousands of young Roman Catholics are expected to converge on the city for the World Youth Days, including a visit by the Pope later in the week. Police lowered speed limits last week and urged drivers to leave cars at home when the last alert was issued. Reuters - Paris

Dissident 'harassed' by Bahrain

An international human rights group accused Bahrain of harassing a dissident leader who was allegedly barred from leaving the Gulf state for medical treatment. The New York-based Human Rights Watch said Ahmed al-Shamlan was prevented from travelling to France on 30 July. The next day Mr Shamlan, a lawyer in his mid-fifties, suffered a stroke. Human Rights Watch said. AP - Cairo

Robber kills minister's brother

The brother of Mexico's finance minister was gunned down on Saturday near his house, officials said. Alejandro Ortiz Martinez, brother of Guillermo Ortiz, died after being hit by three bullets in an apparent robbery attempt. Earlier, a government budget director, Jorge Bannuelos Ortiz, was clubbed to death and stuffed into the trunk of his car, the city's attorney-general's office said. Reuters - Mexico City

Shining Path kidnaps 28

Guerrillas from Peru's Maoist Shining Path movement have kidnapped 29 oil workers - possibly including foreigners - in remote jungle. The missing people were employed by local exploration company CGG, working for French oil giant Elf in the River Ene zone. Reuters - Lima

Ivana Trump invests in Croatia

Ivana Trump, Czech-born former wife of American billionaire tycoon Donald Trump, plans to pour money into the Croatian tourism industry. "Croatia has a vast tourist potential," she said in Dubrovnik. Reuters - Zagreb

Viking ship in trouble

The crew of a Viking ship trying to recreate Leif Ericsson's voyage from Greenland to Canada experienced rudder problems and got some modern help from a Canadian ice breaker which began towing the 54ft *Snorri* back to Nuk, Greenland, on Saturday. It was not clear whether the expedition would be restarted. AP - Halifax

Yemen blames foreign cash

Yemen has blamed foreign-backed saboteurs for a spate of kidnappings of foreigners it said were aimed at harming its international relations. Some officials alleged financial backing by the Saudis. Reuters - Sanaa

BECALMED.

Our fully air-conditioned flagship saloon cruises in at just over £19,000.

lood service
iew attacked

international

New York's finest accused of brutality

John Carlin
Washington

"NYPD same as Tiptons Macoutes" read a banner at an angry demonstration outside a Brooklyn police station on Saturday by thousands of Haitian immigrants waving sink plungers and Haitian flags.

It was, perhaps, a trifle harsh to associate New York's finest with the notoriously savage

Haitian paramilitaries immortalised in Graham Greene's *The Comedians*. And Rudolph Giuliani, the mayor of New York City, who has overseen a spectacular decrease in the city's crime rate during the last four years, is no Papa Doc.

But the incident which sparked the weekend protest outside the 70th Precinct in Brooklyn appears to have been gratuitously brutal by any stan-

dards. The sink plungers the crowd waved were a reminder of the instrument two police officers allegedly used to sodomise Abner Louima after arresting him following a brawl outside a club last weekend.

Mr Louima, 30, a private security guard born in Haiti, says police officers shoved the handle of a sink plunger up his rectum and then forced it into his mouth, breaking some teeth. He

also claims that one of the officers called him a "stupid nigger" and said, "This is Giuliani time, not Dinkins time" - a reference to Mayor Giuliani's predecessor, who was black and reputedly less intolerant of criminals.

Mr Louima, who is reported still to be in critical condition in a Brooklyn hospital, suffered serious injuries in the rectum and the bladder. The New York police authorities have re-

sponded swiftly. Two officers have been charged with assault; the commander of the 70th Precinct and his deputy have been transferred; and a desk sergeant on duty on the night of the incident has been suspended.

Mayor Giuliani, who is up for re-election this year, has been at pains to express his dismay over the incident and his sympathy for the victim. Twice he

has visited Mr Louima in hospital and on Saturday night he appeared on television to try to soothe the tempers following what turned out to be an angry but peaceful demonstration by the Haitian immigrant community. As the mayor pointed out, the case against the two accused officers rests primarily on the evidence of a fellow-officer who has furnished ample eyewitness evidence against them.

That was not the kind of official response the Haitian population became accustomed to during the days of Papa Doc, or of his son Baby Doc, but that did not stop the crowd outside the 70th Precinct pelting the police with insults. "Sodomites! Sodomites!" they cried. "One banner depicting a policeman with horns read 'Devil in a blue suit'; another urged the population to 'Resist Police Terror'."

If the newly installed commander at the 70th Precinct, Raymond Diaz, felt the Haitian community's response had been a touch extreme, he was not showing it during Saturday's demonstration, when he made a public appearance to try to talk to the protesters. "It's understandable that they're outraged," he told the *New York Times*. "I hope we can overcome this and get stronger."

Satellite images reveal the lost temples of Angkor

Matthew Chance

Hidden behind a leafy screen of jungle greenery, its elegantly carved masonry sprouting twisted vines and branches, the temple ruins of Angkor epitomise the exotic and the picturesque. But this remote corner of north-west Cambodia, wracked by political instability and littered with deadly Khmer Rouge minefields, has until now remained largely uncharted by archaeologists, however enthralled they are by its ancient mystery.

But high-resolution satellite images, released by scientists from the United States space agency Nasa from a 1994 space shuttle mission to photograph the Earth, have revealed startling new evidence of architectural features away from the known temples of Angkor.

Most dramatically, the images which pierce the thick monsoon clouds and the dense tree canopy of the Khmer Rouge-infested jungles, show what appears to be a group of up to 12 stunning 14th-century temples hidden beneath the



Hidden treasure: One of the newly-released images from a Nasa space shuttle mission (above left) which show that the known temples of Angkor (above) by no means give the whole story Photograph: James Barr

thick vegetation in areas firmly under guerrilla control.

"It's very exciting to have found these new monuments, but we can't say yet what they will contain," said Dr. Elizabeth Moore, an archaeologist from the London School of Oriental and African Studies, who has been viewing the images. "We need to get an archaeologist on the ground to record exactly what it is we have stumbled upon," she

added, "although with the Cambodian situation the way it is, the area is now more dangerous than ever to explore". As long-standing strongholds of the brutal Khmer Rouge, many of the outlying temples at Angkor have been out of bounds to visitors for more than 20 years.

Even United Nations maps of the area outside the UN-protected archaeological park read "God Only Knows". But in the

past month, even the main complexes of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom, Cambodia's only real tourist attractions, have become risky to visit as rival government forces clashed just a few miles away following the *coup d'état* in July. Crackling gunfire and the dull thud of incoming shells shattered their tranquillity, but the temples were not damaged. The hope is that at least some of the newly revealed struc-

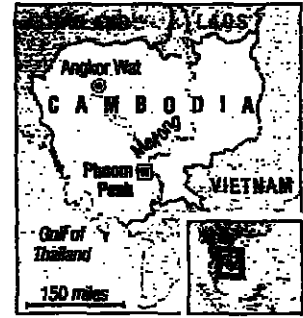
tures have escaped, not only the fighting, but the chieftains and hammers of the looters who have ravaged the rest of Angkor for more than a century.

Meanwhile, scholars have gathered in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, to interpret the stunning Nasa images of Angkor, where as many as 1 million people lived at the height of the Khmer empire, before it mysteriously fell into ruin around the

15th century. "The images also reveal large circular villages surrounded by moats which are very unusual and probably very ancient, dating from perhaps as long ago as 500BC," Dr Moore said, "well before what we understand to be the foundation of Angkor, which doesn't really come into being until more than a thousand years later."

There are also several significant geological features revealed

by the satellite images, including a complex network of river channels criss-crossing the area: according to Dr Moore, this could help unravel the mysteries surrounding the temple-city, the vast construction costs of which are believed to have tumbled the empire that built it. "I think all these scraps of evidence will help us understand why Angkor is where it is, and more importantly, is what it is," she said.



£19,140.

The Rover 820i.



Call 0345 186 186 for details, or visit your local Rover dealer. Price, correct at time of going to press, includes 12 months road tax, delivery to dealer premises and number plates. Subject to vehicle availability.

RELAX.

هاتنا من الأصل

1550 من الامرين

Arafat aide calls for trade boycott on Israel

Eric Silver
Jerusalem

Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority called on Palestinian traders and consumers at the weekend to counter the Israeli blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by boycotting Israeli products. Mohammed Rashid, Mr Arafat's economic adviser, told reporters: "We want the Israeli producers to feel the impact of the economic siege imposed on our people."

The aim, he acknowledged, was not to bring the Israeli economy to its knees, but to push Israeli businessmen to lobby their Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to ease the restrictions he introduced after the 3 July suicide bombing which killed 14 Israelis in a Jerusalem market. The Palestinian ban would be implemented gradually, starting this week.

"We want to share with others the negative consequences of Netanyahu's decisions," Mr Rashid added, "and those others are the Israeli suppliers and producers." He estimated that Palestinians spent an average of \$3m a day on Israeli goods, about 96 per cent of the imports into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Independent Israeli economists say the true trade figure is about half that cited by Mr Arafat's adviser. One of them, Simcha Bakir, co-author of an Israeli-Palestinian study of the economic benefits of peace, said yesterday: "The Palestinians can hurt the Israeli economy a little, but only a little. Some individual companies may be hit. Palestinian imports account for barely 1 per cent of Israeli production."

Ghassan Khatib, a Palestin-

ian political commentator, feared that the embargo would do more damage to the Palestinian economy than the Israeli. "This measure," he said, "comes out of desperation. The Palestinian Authority feel they should do something, but they don't know what to do."

Israeli officials dismissed the embargo as irrelevant. "We don't think there's anything to be gained by exchanging threats," a government spokesman, Moshe Fogel, said. "We imposed the closure as a result of concrete security concerns."

Behind the scenes the joint Israeli-Palestinian security committee, set up last week under American auspices, got down to work yesterday. Co-operation between the respective police forces on Saturday swiftly brought to justice three Palestinian thieves who murdered an Israeli taxi driver and tried to sell his car for spare parts. A Palestinian court sentenced two of them to life and a third, a minor, to 15 years.

But publicly Mr Arafat was still refusing to yield to "Israeli dictation." The Palestinian President accused Mr Netanyahu of launching a vicious war to humiliate the Palestinian people and undermine the 1993 Oslo Peace Process.

While the politicians wrangled, 44,000 out of 110,000 Palestinian public sector workers have not been paid their July wages because Israel is holding back tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.

Up to 100,000 day labourers are barred from reaching their jobs in Israel. All on top of the 25 per cent estimated to have been unemployed before the closure.



Wrecked lives: A boy and his brother in the ruins of their home in the Kenyan port of Mombasa, after an attack late on Saturday that left five people dead and 40 houses destroyed. Yesterday the army moved in after further raids, which followed a leafleting campaign in the area aimed at driving off immigrants from outside the coastal area. Photograph: Reuters

Germany's EU payments must be cut, says Kohl

Bonn (Reuters) — The German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in an interview released yesterday that Germany's payments to the European Union were too high and should be reduced.

"The current payment level from Germany is too high, that's undisputed. And we must work to bring down this sum," Mr Kohl said in the interview with ZDF television recorded at his Austrian holiday home.

Asked if he would be able to push through a reduction in payments with Germany's EU partners, Mr Kohl said: "We must try, I'm not alone. But I've

been able to push through many things."

The size of Germany's contributions to the EU has leapt to the top of the political agenda over the past few months, with senior figures in all major parties complaining that Bonn cannot afford to pay the lion's share of the EU budget.

Finance minister Theo Waigel said earlier this month that Germany, following unification with its former Communist east, was no longer wealthy enough to pay so much. Mr Kohl said that Brussels must recognise the efforts of all

EU states to make savings in their own budget and also appeared to hint it was time to cut down on money spent on EU bureaucracy. "I'm also not of the opinion that the Brussels apparatus can stay as it is now, in its dimensions," he said. Germany, by far the largest contributor to EU coffers, will pay around \$2 billion euros (about \$250bn) this year.

The issue of EU financing is due to be discussed by 1999, when a new formula will have to be worked out to take account of planned enlargement to include new members.

Police seize neo-Nazis to block Hess rally

Bonn (Reuters) — German police detained at least 380 neo-Nazis over the weekend in an operation to stop them holding rallies to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the death of Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess.

About 150 Scandinavian, Dutch and German extremists exploited more liberal freedom of speech laws in neighbouring Denmark to rally in the town of Koee on Saturday. Many waved swastika flags, chanting "Sieg Heil" and "Hess - Fight for Peace".

Neo-Nazis in Germany played cat-and-mouse with

police, keeping their plans for gatherings secret in an attempt to beat widespread bans imposed on any events connected with Hess, who died on 17 August 1987, in Spandau prison, Berlin.

Police in the state of Thuringia said they had detained 94 people and also seized baseball bats, neo-Nazi music cassettes and propaganda material at special traffic checkpoints set up to intercept the extremists before they could gather.

Police in the northern state of Lower Saxony said they believed the main rally had been planned for somewhere in their

area but they had managed to stop it going ahead, detaining around 160 people.

Sixty neo-Nazis were detained in Koenigsbutter, northern Germany, after trying to rally outside the local cathedral.

Judges from Germany's highest court held a special late-night session on Saturday to block a last-minute attempt to hold a rally in the small Bavarian town where Hess is buried. The Federal Constitutional Court rejected a challenge to a ban on gatherings connected with Hess in the town of Wunsiedel.

UCAS Listings

ALL THE OFFICIAL LISTINGS SUPPLEMENTS RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE CLEARING PERIOD, WILL BE GIVING YOU A TASTE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF COURSES BY PUBLISHING THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS

Monday 18 August	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (PHYSICS)
Wednesday 20 August	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (COMPUTING)
Friday 22 August	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (FINANCE/BUSINESS/LAW)
Sunday 24 August	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (TEACHING TRAINING)
Tuesday 26 August	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (SCIENCE & ENGINEERING)
Thursday 28 August	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (AGRICULTURE)
Sunday 31 August	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (LANGUAGES)
Wednesday 3 September	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (SCIENCE & ENGINEERING)
Sunday 7 September	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (HUMANITIES)
Wednesday 10 September	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (GENERAL)
Sunday 14 September	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (GENERAL)

Home Office

166M

166 MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
32MB EDO RAM
4.3Gb hard disk
33.6 Kbps Modem
16 MB CD-ROM drive
16-bit Sound
FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)
All standard features below

£969

£1138.58 inc VAT

Product code: 167 000-00-000, 167 000-00-000

Two Unbeatable Deals!

Our current 166M PC with 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology has been a big best seller with its 32MB RAM, 4.3Gb hard disk and 33.6 Kbps modem - all at a remarkably low price!

The new 200+ specification provides great value for money. Featuring the latest 200MHz Pentium processor, 32MB RAM, 4.3Gb hard disk, 33.6 Kbps modem, 16 MB CD-ROM drive, 16-bit Sound, FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100), and all standard features below.

Order only this week! A FREE 200+ Laser Printer (valued at £100) is included only this week! (Normal RRP £119)

Standard Features Of Both Systems

- 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
- 32MB EDO RAM
- 4.3Gb hard disk
- 33.6 Kbps Modem
- 16 MB CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit Sound
- FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)
- All standard features below

200+

200+ MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology

32MB EDO RAM

4.3Gb hard disk

33.6 Kbps Modem

16 MB CD-ROM drive

16-bit Sound

FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)

All standard features below

£999

£1173.83 inc VAT

Product code: 200 000-00-000, 200 000-00-000



The new 200+ specification provides great value for money. Featuring the latest 200MHz Pentium processor, 32MB RAM, 4.3Gb hard disk, 33.6 Kbps modem, 16 MB CD-ROM drive, 16-bit Sound, FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100), and all standard features below.

Order only this week! A FREE 200+ Laser Printer (valued at £100) is included only this week! (Normal RRP £119)

Standard Features Of Both Systems

- 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
- 32MB EDO RAM
- 4.3Gb hard disk
- 33.6 Kbps Modem
- 16 MB CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit Sound
- FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)
- All standard features below

200+

200+ MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology

32MB EDO RAM

4.3Gb hard disk

33.6 Kbps Modem

16 MB CD-ROM drive

16-bit Sound

FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)

All standard features below

£999

£1173.83 inc VAT

Product code: 200 000-00-000, 200 000-00-000

Two Unbeatable Deals!

Our current 200+ PC with 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology has been a big best seller with its 32MB RAM, 4.3Gb hard disk, 33.6 Kbps modem, 16 MB CD-ROM drive, 16-bit Sound, FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100), and all standard features below.

The new 200+ specification provides great value for money. Featuring the latest 200MHz Pentium processor, 32MB RAM, 4.3Gb hard disk, 33.6 Kbps modem, 16 MB CD-ROM drive, 16-bit Sound, FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100), and all standard features below.

Order only this week! A FREE 200+ Laser Printer (valued at £100) is included only this week! (Normal RRP £119)

Standard Features Of Both Systems

- 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
- 32MB EDO RAM
- 4.3Gb hard disk
- 33.6 Kbps Modem
- 16 MB CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit Sound
- FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)
- All standard features below

200+

200+ MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
32MB EDO RAM
4.3Gb hard disk
33.6 Kbps Modem
16 MB CD-ROM drive
16-bit Sound
FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)
All standard features below

£999

£1173.83 inc VAT

Product code: 200 000-00-000, 200 000-00-000

Two Unbeatable Deals!

Our current 200+ PC with 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology has been a big best seller with its 32MB RAM, 4.3Gb hard disk, 33.6 Kbps modem, 16 MB CD-ROM drive, 16-bit Sound, FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100), and all standard features below.

The new 200+ specification provides great value for money. Featuring the latest 200MHz Pentium processor, 32MB RAM, 4.3Gb hard disk, 33.6 Kbps modem, 16 MB CD-ROM drive, 16-bit Sound, FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100), and all standard features below.

Order only this week! A FREE 200+ Laser Printer (valued at £100) is included only this week! (Normal RRP £119)

Standard Features Of Both Systems

- 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
- 32MB EDO RAM
- 4.3Gb hard disk
- 33.6 Kbps Modem
- 16 MB CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit Sound
- FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)
- All standard features below

200+

200+ MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology

32MB EDO RAM

4.3Gb hard disk

33.6 Kbps Modem

16 MB CD-ROM drive

16-bit Sound

FREE Laser Printer (valued at £100)

All standard features below

£999

£1173.83 inc VAT

Product code: 200 000-00-000, 200 000-00-000

The Best Deals are from Time

Order With Confidence

Time Computer Systems has been a leading name in the UK's leading PC suppliers for over 10 years. Our reputation for reliability and quality is well known.

Full Service And Support

We offer a full range of services to our customers, including installation, training, and ongoing support. We are committed to ensuring your system runs smoothly and efficiently.

Interest Free Credit

Time Computer Systems offers interest-free credit on all orders over £1000. This allows you to spread the cost of your purchase over a period of 12 months, with no interest charged.

Money Back Guarantee

We offer a 30-day money-back guarantee on all our products. If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, we will refund your money in full.

Choose Direct Or Retail

You can choose to buy your system directly from us, or through a local retailer. Both options are available, and we will ensure you get the best price and service.

FREE

EPSON Laser Printer

When you buy a PC from Time, we will give you a FREE EPSON Laser Printer. This is a high-quality printer that will last for years.

Time Computer Systems

34

South & North

Business White

Government

01282 777 111

Offer Must End 23 August

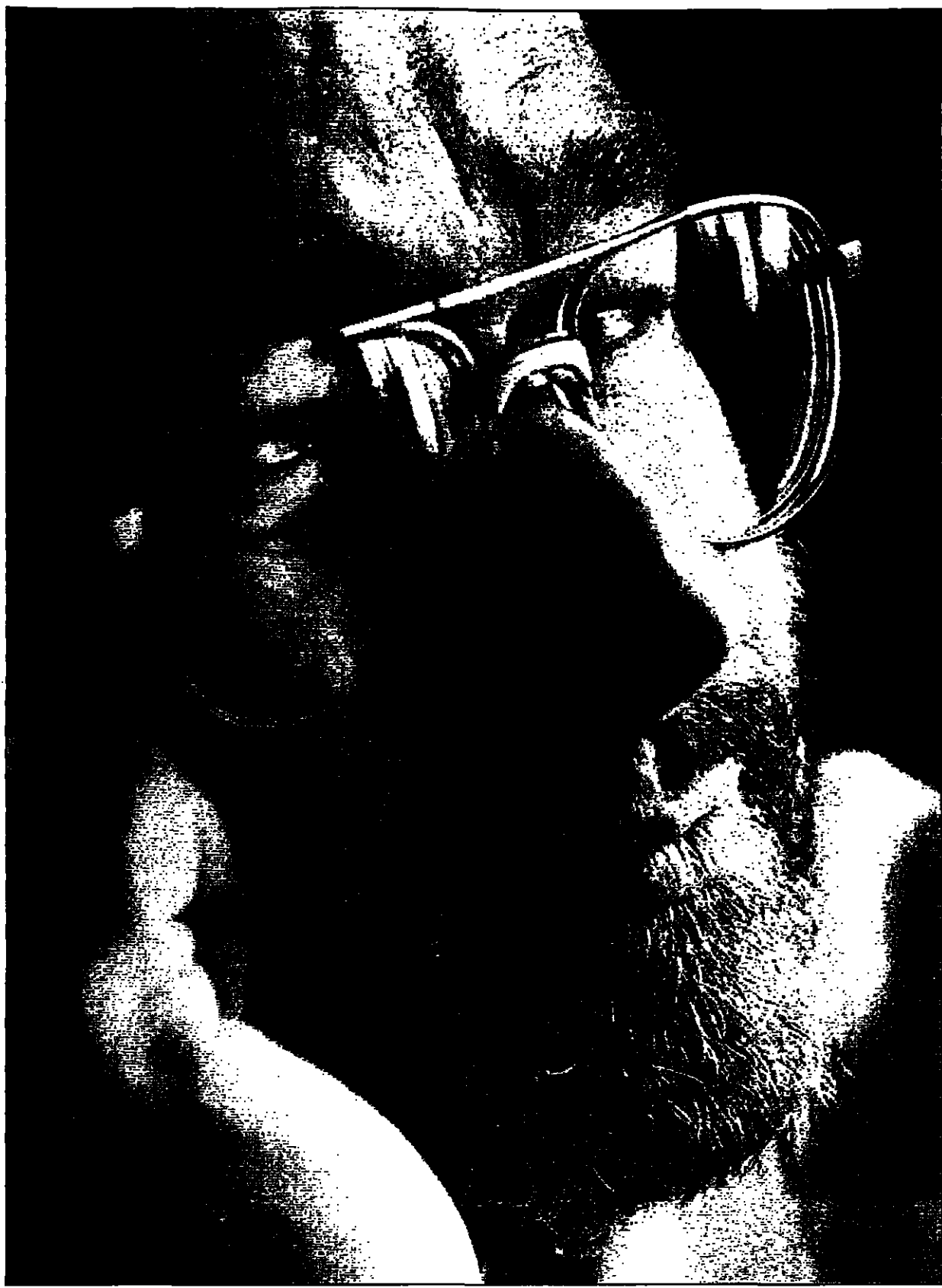
Buy Now, Pay Later

0%

TIME

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

arts



The referendum on 11 September 'has concentrated our minds wonderfully', says the Scottish novelist Iain Banks (above): but will a Yes-Yes vote bring with it a 'new sense of pride'?

Photograph: Susannah Birney

As the devolution debate intensifies, Boyd Tonkin reports from the Edinburgh Book Festival on how literature squares up to the creative and demonic faces of nationalism

Imagined communities

Prentice McHoon, the hero of Iain Banks's *The Crow Road*, watches the dark waters lap around a wrecked West of Scotland dock and thinks about his Argyle family's far-flung branches. "My veins seemed to run with ocean blood... God, how we are connected to the world!" In Edinburgh to launch his new novel *A Song of Stone*, Prentice's creator – the Fife novelist with a fan-base of rock-star dimensions – argues that the devolution package he supports won't turn an outward-looking culture inward. "You only have to look at the number of Scots who have to go elsewhere to earn a living," Banks explains, prior to giving his usual shaggy amiable performance to a worshipful full house in an airless tent in Charlotte Square. "That's not going to change. London alone has more than six million people, Scotland only five million."

The question of what happens to writers from small cultures with big neighbours has cropped up time and time again at this year's Edinburgh Book Festival. As Banks puts it, the referendum due on 11 September has "concentrated our minds wonderfully". Scores of writers from the minnows as well as the sharks among the nations have met and speechified (and plotted behind the scenes) at the PEN Congress that overlapped with the Festival itself. Piquantly, the PEN delegates dined their farewell buffet and politely watched some genteel Scottish dancing in the Parliament Hall. It was there, in 1707, that the local elite voted to give away their country's legislative sovereignty. Elsewhere, a cluster of Indian events over the weekend have helped focus attention on the downside of partitions. Meanwhile, Allan Massie – virtually the only up-front Unionist among Scottish novelists – has just damned the devolution settlement on offer as "a recipe for bad government". In this two-faced city of doubles and secrets that bred Stevenson's *Jekyll and Hyde*, both the creative and demonic sides of cultural nationalism

have surfaced over the past week. On the one hand, the writer Frederick Lindsay speaks for many Scots when he contrasts the later years of WB Yeats – whose poetry blossomed into new forms in the fledgling Irish Free State – with the bitter decline of his great Scottish contemporary, Hugh MacDiarmid. "If Yeats flourished and MacDiarmid withered, part of the reason might be the different history of their countries." And Iain Banks

has a self-determining Scotland, a new "sense of pride" might replace the

resentment of the *Trainspotting* generation, as the deprivation that spawned their fury fades away. "Speaking very optimistically, perhaps in 20 years' time we'll have to rebuild the housing schemes to

understand it." But nationalism also managed the odd ugly scowl among the smiling faces in Edinburgh. Backstage manoeuvres at the PEN Congress confirmed a split – common to most major international agencies – between a Francophone bloc in one camp and an Anglo-Saxon-Nordic axis in another. In one session, a Kurdish author (representing the planet's largest stateless nation) sprayed abuse over

Turks as a whole, not just the Ankara regime. In reply, a Turkish delegate – himself a dissident – asked why it was that "when two fascists are fighting each other, we have to choose the weaker fascist" rather than none at all. Fair or not, the anti-Turkish outburst came in the wake of years of torture and terror designed to obliterate Kurdish life and language. Fantasies of ethnic purity have had a dismayingly good decade. And no writer in Edinburgh exploded them more eloquently than the exiled Somali novelist Nuruddin Farah. In an age of mass migration, he argued,

"the facts on the ground make nonsense of the outdated view that we belong in the territory of our ancestors". Speaking of our ancestors, the Scottish nationalist in his home town in the disputed Orkney region, he stressed that "those people may have been of 'alien' origin, but they loved Kallafu more than those who claimed it, and destroyed it". There's little need to fear that Troon will turn into Tizla or Stirling into Sarajevo after a

ferent coloured pens would have shown the New Forest or Isle of Wight instead.

You can leave a small nation or a beleaguered culture easily enough, by choice, chance or dire necessity. But, as the writers in Edinburgh proved, that culture often won't leave you – or your heirs – alone. When the novelist Francisco Goldman travelled from the US to spend time on his mother's home turf in Guatemala, he aimed to become a free-floating Author without creed or cause. Then the intimate horror of the Guatemalan army's US-funded war against the country's landless poor erupted around him. "It's like the Larkin line, 'They fuck you up, your mum and dad'," he explains. "Well, reality fucks you up, too."

Ties to a threatened people rule out indifference for a writer, however strong the urge to bury your roots. Recently, the Gaelic poet Angus MacInneson enjoyed reading his work in Rome – whence legionaries marched to stamp out his tribe two millennia ago. He still wishes that "I didn't always have to fight for my culture, want to be an ordinary human being getting on with life."

In a nutshell, that sums up the theme of Bernardo Atxaga's *The Lonesome Man*: the Basque novelist's mastery of a retired ETA gunman, whose long-hidden *pasi* catches up with him. For Atxaga – as for creative Scots or Somalis – belonging to a fragile culture where personal and political forces intermingle has precious little to do with the cosy comforts of folklore. Atxaga even revealed that he started writing precisely in order to shake off the trad Basque pursuits of dancing and hunting. Rather, home is where the heartbreak is. "I'd very much like to have a raincoat over my soul," he said, as the Edinburgh skies opened on cue above him. "But with family and friends, it's not possible. You must become permeable."

Paul Scott joins other writers for a debate on 'Scotland: a new dawn?' tomorrow (19 Aug) at 6.30pm in Charlotte Square, Glasgow. Details from the Edinburgh Book Festival: 0131-220 3991

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

97

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES' LICENCE

LICENSING ACT 1964
Court: Crawley Magistrates Court, The Court House, County Buildings, Woodfield Road, Crawley.

Hearing date/time: Friday 12th September 1997 at 9.30am.
Premises: The Duty Free Shop (North Terminal), 2nd Floor, North Terminal, Gatwick - Main Shop.

Applicant: Teresa Anne Sear
Address: 16 Redgate Close, Pound Hill, Crawley.

Trade or Calling: Deputy Manager
Applicant: Mark Sterling Collins
Address: 53 Heath Gardens, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Trade or Calling: Deputy Manager
Applicant: Andrew Michael Eggers
Address: 18 Gopney Close, Maidenbower, Crawley.

TAKE NOTICE that the Applicants intend to apply at the Licensing Sessions for the said Division at the place, date and time shown above for the Provisional grant to them of a Justices' Licence authorising them to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption off the above premises.

Dated: 12th August 1997
Palmer & Co
Beveridge House
154 Fleet Street
London EC4A 3DQ

Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicants

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES' LICENCE

LICENSING ACT 1964
Court: Maidstone Magistrates Court, The Court House, Palace Avenue, Maidstone.

Hearing date/time: Tuesday 26th September 1997 at 10.00am.
Premises: BHS, 42.50 King Street, Maidstone.

Applicant: Elizabeth Chiffa
Address: The Stable Flat, Half Moon Lane, Tisbury, Wiltshire.

Trade or Calling: Administration Manager
Applicant: Elizabeth Chiffa
Address: The Stable Flat, Half Moon Lane, Tisbury, Wiltshire.

TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant intends to apply at the Licensing Sessions for the said Division at the place, date and time shown above for the Provisional grant to her of a Justices' Licence authorising her to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption off the above premises.

Dated: 11th August 1997
Palmer & Co
Beveridge House
154 Fleet Street
London EC4A 3DQ

Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicants

THIS NEWSPAPER AND YOU

If you have a complaint about an item in this newspaper which concerns inaccuracy, intrusion, harassment or discrimination, write to the editor about it.

If you're still dissatisfied you can write to the Press Complaints Commission, an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press.

THIS NEWSPAPER ABIDES BY THE PCC'S DECISIONS

PC

1 SALISBURY SQUARE LONDON EC4A 3AE

Telephone 0171 353 1248 Facsimile 0171 353 8355

This space has been donated by the publisher

Theatre

"FULL OF SUSPENSE"

We are kept guessing right until the end.

PAUL NICHOLAS

gives a gripping performance.

SUSAN PENHALIGON

is genuinely touching

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

by David Hare

THEATRE

The Seagull

Donmar Warehouse, London

Actors are supposed to wish each other "Break a leg"; you suspect that Mark Bazeley has heard rather too many jokes on that score just lately, so we'll just take it as read. The reason I mention this is that, as we were informed on the way into the Donmar for the press night of *The Seagull* last Thursday, Bazeley had injured his leg and would therefore be playing Konstantin, the romantic young writer, with the aid of a crutch: this was not, we were assured, meant to be taken as part of the interpretation. As it turned out, the crutch suited the part rather well, heightening the sense that Konstantin, with his high artistic ideals and his fits of self-loathing and despair, is an outsider; and in Bazeley's fine performance, the intensity of his inner anger seemed to be magnified by the scuffling, awkward gait he was forced to adopt from time to time.

All the same, you could see why a warning was thought necessary – without foreknowledge, a gratuitous catch would have seemed very out of place in Stephen Unwin's staging for English Touring Theatre. He resolutely declines any interpretative flourishes, preferring instead to serve Chekhov's text. It's an admirable approach, mostly carried through with intelligence and wit, so that if you are going to see one *Seagull* this summer – Tom Stoppard's translation is already running at the Old Vic – you should certainly give this one serious consideration.



Feeling a passion to tatters: Arkadina (Cheryl Campbell) embraces her lover, Trigorin (Duncan Bell) in the Donmar's production of 'The Seagull'

There are a couple of butts, though. One is that the reluctance to interpret goes a little too far, leaving the characters in something of a vacuum. There's little sense of the history of Nina's romance with Konstantin, or Masha's unrequited passion. If you didn't know that Polina was Masha's mother, Sorin was Arkadina's brother and Shamraev his steward, Unwin gives you little in the way of clues. It feels – perhaps this is intentional – as if these people and their tangled relationships simply float into being as the play begins, and evaporate as it ends.

The other but is that the pleasingly unfussy quality of both Unwin's production and Stephen Mulrine's highly speakable translation isn't always matched by the performances: in particular, Cheryl Campbell's Arkadina is at times much too accessibly comfortable. This may sound an odd complaint, given that Arkadina is an actress, and a self-dramatising streak is one of her characteristics. But you surely ought to feel that when she is being obviously self-dramatising, it's because she wants to draw attention to her feelings – her passion for her lover Trigorin, her maternal anxiety for Konstantin; instead, you feel she's simply drawing your attention to her capacity for self-dramatisation.

Elsewhere, flirting, pushing, unconsciously displaying just how self-centred she is, Campbell is very good. So are Duncan Bell as a pale, humorously

self-deprecating 'Trigorin'; Christopher Good, self-possessed, ironically detached as the doctor; Arthur Cox as the ailing Sorin, half afraid of decline; half welcoming it (he is, incidentally, replacing Denys Hawthorne at short notice). And Joanna Roth is properly radiant and pretty as Nina to begin with, rather over-achieving a sense of hysteria in

the final act, after her abandonment by Trigorin. So, as I say, if you're going to see one *Seagull*, this may well be it. As for why you should see *The Seagull* at all, though, that's a question it doesn't quite answer.

To 6 Sept, Earlsam St, London WC2 (0171-369 1732)

Robert Hanks

Tomorrow in the Tabloid: Matthew Collings reports from Dokumenta in Kassel

كلنا من الأصل

A woman finds herself at sea

The Monday Interview

TRACY EDWARDS

For high endeavour, it is hard to outdo the deeds of Tracy Edwards, who led her all-woman crew to round-the-world glory and is about to do things still more daring. The question is: why?

By Janie Lawrence

The trouble with meeting someone like Tracy Edwards is you don't know whether to feel extraordinarily guilty or wonderfully inspired: she is so evangelically convinced that with just a bit more effort all of us could achieve a whole lot more. "I have a desperate need to succeed and improve myself," she says fervently. "When I wake up in the morning I need to know that I've got something difficult to overcome. When my life is running very smoothly I'm bored."

It is this single-minded determination that took Tracy into the record books in 1990 after she skippered the *Wild Race*'s first all-female yacht crew in the Round Britain and Ireland Race. When she left England there was barely a ripple of interest. Raising the sponsorship alone was a move that defied a less driven woman. Yet by the time her boat, *Maiden*, returned she was hogging the headlines. *Maiden* wheeled out to chat to Richard and Judy. The blocks in the sailing world were, to put it bluntly, gobsmacked. They had never expected Tracy and her "girls" to succeed. "They said we'd try every day and wouldn't back it," Tracy recalls.

But not only did they complete the race, they won two of the legs and took second place overall. For this singularly focused individual there are still more challenges to take on. Next week she begins a Round Britain record attempt before embarking on the big one: at the end of the year, a planned attempt to sail non-stop around the world.

Time to strap around the world. "Women have a lot of money, more readily—'This time has a lot of catching up to do, but it's happening'—and she's been able to get hold of the boat that was used by Robin Knox Johnson and Peter Blake when they broke the circumnavigation record in 1994. Nonetheless, she has still remortgaged her home. 'How can you expect other people to put money into something unless you do yourself.'" Unimagnatively named *Royal Sun Alliance* after the sponsor, the 92ft catamaran is, she assures me, "a big powerful machine, a beast." On the RSA, unless you're severely vertically challenged—under 5ft—you can't stand up in the cabins. At night, so Tracy cheerfully informs me, it's *de rigueur* to pee in a bucket. (So much easier when the temperatures have plummeted and you've just scrambled out of three layers of thermals.) As Tracy babbles about its attributes—"she's a multi-hull so there's less wetted surface area in the water"—I'm struck that she does so with a passion you or I might reserve for the new love in our lives. "It's so romantic, though," she gushes and from Tracy's current list of goals: "I want to sail from Tracy's last moment of goals." Tracy can't fill me up a lot of my time. I, too, worthwhile at sea—I am in charge of my own life. On land, I feel very ineffectual."

Short, slim but solidly built and friendly, Tracy is instantly likeable. Men, I suspect, don't know how to deal with her independent spirit and forthright manner. "They like it until they're married to you and then they don't," she says ruefully, knocking back a half of cider. Certainly she hasn't had much luck with them. Now awaiting a divorce from her second husband, she has reached the conclusion that she and marriage do not mix. "I'm not meant to be married. I'm not very good at it. I feel making one mistake is OK, making two is not and I don't want to make a third."

Before she left for her voyage on *Malden* she was engaged to Simon Lawrence. Now she says that they married on her return largely because it was expected of them. "He is a really, really nice guy," she rushes. The way she explains it, she would have to believe the fault for the relationship's breakdown should be considered entirely by her. That characteristic of self-criticism runs throughout everything she says. "When I came back I'd totally changed. I'd become very much my own person. I had no tolerance level for anything anyone else wanted to do, including him. I guess I was bloody stupid and bloody-minded. Three months later we were back at each other and said, 'What are we doing?'" Three months, oh dear. Any shorter would be a waste. She wanted a refund on her divorce. "Do they ever speak of that, yeah," she replies.

She finds the breakdown of her second marriage, to a computer specialist, still a little too raw to talk about. That one lasted 18 months. It doesn't take



On deck: 'The sea fills up a lot of my life. I feel worthwhile at sea. On land I feel ineffectual'

Photograph: Robin Jones/Solent News and Photo

a Mystic Meg to see that her decision to return to sailing in the same month as they married could well have been a sign of prescience over its ultimate outcome. "When I was younger I always used to have to be with someone. I thought I had to be half of someone else. I was quite insecure. But I don't feel that I have to do that any more. Now I'm happy being on my own, going home with a take-away meal and sticking on the telly or reading a book. I know that to be with someone else is to make them unhappy and me unhappy. It's selfish of me to be with someone if I can't give them 100 per cent of my time."

If she hadn't been expelled from her Swansea school, Tracy might never have stumbled upon sailing. After two months at a secretarial college she'd had enough, so picked up her backpack and headed for Europe. It was while she was working in a bar near the Greek port of Piraeus that she heard one of the boat owners was looking for a stewardess. "I was just a skivvy but almost immediately I knew it was what I wanted to do. It was a revelation to me. I couldn't believe I had been so lucky to stumble across the right path."

She says now that she was a "revolting teenager". The premature death of her father from a heart attack when she was 10 can't be unconnected. "I remember the night he died quite well. I said, 'Don't worry mum, I going to take care of you now.' And then what I proceeded to do was let her down. I made her life a bloody misery. I was just so bloody full of myself." The appearance of a stepfather did nothing to improve matters. "I hated him," she says simply.

During our conversation she mentions her mother, Pat, a great deal. A former prima ballerina, Pat now has multiple sclerosis. "She has an amazing strength. She's everything I want to be and never can be. If I had listened to her a few more times I wouldn't have got myself into the messes that I did." In common with her mother she has a deep religious faith that she's always before been too embarrassed to mention. "I don't go to church but I do have a great belief in God. It's one of my points of motivation."

There was a time though when she lost motivation. Separated from Simon, she left their home outside Southampton and moved back to Swansea. "I

don't really know what a nervous breakdown is, but I had a breakdown of some sort. When we had got back to England it was like 'whoa.' It was too much all at one time. I was completely unprepared for it. I had no qualifications and suddenly there was this round of PR and media. I needed to be around people who didn't want to know every five seconds what the Southern Ocean was like." For the most part she didn't see anyone much at all and began to breed horses.

Kicked in the base of her spine by one of the horses, she subsequently spent six months on crutches. "After going round the entire world with not one injury except a rope burn on my leg," she laughs. She might well still be hiding in Swansea if Will Carling hadn't approached her to join him in his business, giving motivational talks to companies. It wasn't before time.

Still paying off debts after *Maiden*, she badly needed the money. The royalties from her autobiographical book of the voyage weren't going to last indefinitely. "Will brought out the best in me. He woke me up and said, 'You have something to offer.' I was coaxed out of my shell and I began to get my

confidence back. I thought, I want to go sailing again. I couldn't just talk about it for the rest of my life." Naturally she wanted a "challenge". "I thought, 'What have women not done?'"

As we talk, several of the new crew are busy getting the boat ready for the next trip. "The biggest surprise that most people have is that I'm not a tall, fit dyke, and I don't look like a sailor. They have nice things to say, but I'm not 'hate men,'" she quips. A couple of the original crew from *Maiden* will be going on this voyage, but mostly Tracy has had to recruit from scratch. Sailing ability alone is not enough. Each contender has to bring such individual skills as rigging, engineering or salt-making. As they'll all be thrown together for two-and-a-half months with no land stops and precious little privacy, it's also imperative they get on. "People really have to want to do this 200 per cent," she emphasizes.

She is still trying out potential members. "Women who have got this high sailing tend to be very strong and have had to fight very hard to get where they've got. Women like to set up relationships that work so getting the politics right is really important." What happens when there is a row? "You can't let something get to the point where you're going to have a row," she answers. "The thing we try to keep in mind is that we're all aiming for the same thing. I do encourage someone to say if there's something wrong otherwise you have this dreadful build-up. But women tend not to have as much of an ego problem as men. If a man admits to his crew he's made a mistake they all think he's a stupid idiot. I can sit down with mine and say I'm sorry."

After *Maiden*, one of her previous crew, Nancy Hill, went to a tabloid and complained about the treatment they had all suffered at Tracy's hands. Only weeks earlier she had been one of Tracy's bridesmaids. "It was a piece of shit," she says calmly. "They were complete factual errors like I didn't pay my crew. Yeah, right. That they were almost slaves. It was trash." Tracy sued the paper and won substantial damages, which was promptly passed across to her husband, who then paid her back.

"Every one of my crew stood up for me in court. She'd let the girls down. We'd worked for three years to prove that women can get on and sail together and someone goes and does something like that. Guys say time and time again, 'All girls, you'll hate each other, you'll be bitches'. They're so wrong." She doesn't think their friendship will ever be repaired. "It's irrefutable. I found it very difficult to forgive. It's very sad."

On a sunny day with millpond conditions in Hamble marina it's easy to forget the very real dangers the crew will face. Was there an occasion on *Maiden* when she thought they might die? "After Cape Horn, when we came across the worst storm I've ever seen. The waves were 50ft and we started to sink. We had enough radio power to make one call." I suppose, though, for individuals like Tracy that level of adrenaline-fuelled danger is what it's all about? "No, I'm not one of those people who likes coming close to death. But it's given me great confidence when I think about taking this trip on to know I've been through something as bad as that and I've survived."

troubled something as odd as that and I performed."

Astonishingly, Tracy has never learned to swim and doubts she could manage a length in the average local swimming pool. "I wear my safety harness a lot," she grins. But it's worse than that – she is actually terrified of water. "I can't even watch the crew diving into the water." I reckon a shrink could have a field day with this one. "It's the way of life I like," she offers. More likely I reckon it's what she calls her "inner demons". Spurring her on is this almost absurd need to prove herself. "I spent so much of my life being a failure and a waste of space that I really feel I have a lot of catching up to do."

Ah, this must mean still more goals in the pipeline? Next year she plans to sail to the Antarctic to make a series of television programmes, after that she doesn't know. Does she ever consider what she would be doing if she wasn't sailing? She chuckles. "Something different I guess." Something difficult for certain, I'd say. Although as the Americans would say, "Tracy, you really must stop beating up on yourself." There's definitely no need. Honestly.

Deborah Ross is on holiday

Warm up the credit card, it's time to power shop

Shopping in my family is not so much an activity as a sport and, as such, requires years of training. Stamina must be developed and skills honed. Vocabulary need not be extensive, though 10 meanings for "cute" are a basic requirement. Every girl must serve this apprenticeship—and look pleased to do so. I can remember one weekend with my grandmother in Chicago till you die." By Sunday I could not walk and was wondering if the emergency services should be called. She clearly thought that at the age of 12 I should have known better. I could almost hear her thinking: no one ever said that finding the perfect ribbed knit pantsuit would be easy.

Over the years there have been many more pantsuits and pantsuits (in America only men wear trousers). Some family members have had to be creative. Not many people know — much less are related to — someone whose version of credit control once involved keeping her Visa card in a block of ice in the freezer. "It is really great because I

have to come home and then wait for the ice to melt before I can actually go back and buy. That gives me thinking time," said one of my sisters, beaming as she opened the freezer to show me her frozen plastic net to the mint chocolate-chip ice cream. Not too many years ago such behaviour might have been stigmatised. This was the period when women's magazines ran lots of articles about the dangers of shopping. We read about "retail therapy" and worried that we might be buying that extra set of towels to plug an emotional hole. It was all a bit stressful and such a relief to turn the page and read a sumptuous ad or two. This was also about the time that people who were not addicted to anything else started admitting to having a shopping problem. These "self-confessed shopaholics" spoke of "non-stop binges" and of spending thousands they did not have. Of course I was worried for them but also couldn't help wondering if perhaps freezing their credit cards might have helped.

These days no one likes to be called a shopaholic. "I really hate that label," said an acquaintance



Ann Treneman

ressed top to toe in labels of another kind. "After all, it's not like I spend money on anything else." I stare at her with new interest. Such logic can only mean she has the shopping gene. Could we be related? These days my own gene only activates

when I visit the family in America but this year something has changed. The shopping stakes have been raised. "Come on up and we'll go power shopping," said another sister whose plastic is more hot than dripping. Now this is a woman who has just ordered a Lotus (no, not the flower) and my first thought was that this had something to do with envelopes.

"No, no, no!" But what is it then? "Power shopping," you say, but about having direction. You know what you want and where to get it. It is goal-driven. You do not waste time." The idea is to scan and shop. Shop and scan. It is an SAS-type operation: you reconnaissance the area first and plan your trip to avoid the crowds. Forget Saturdays, this is more a Tuesday morning type thing. Then, when you start to shop, you need to keep moving, stay alert, remain focused. Do not allow yourself to get sidetracked: "Oh, you want a white silk blouse you do not finger for over pale blue polyester. But what about impulse buying? Window shopping? My sister sighs but realises she is dealing with a slow learner."

Absolutely not. This is shopping for professionals. Personal shoppers do this. Their client needs great dress by tomorrow and they do not have time to get distracted. They do not look at shop windows. They do *not* have time to stop and buy chocolate bar."

I stare. No chocolate bars? This obviously was serious stuff. "You can actually see the effect it has," says a power shopping veteran. "Their eyes start to glow as they walk towards the shop. Their whole posture changes. They walk faster and lean forward. It really is kind of exciting."

I am contemplating this while queuing at the local cafe and overhearing what I soon realise must be a power coffee ordering. "I'll have one mocha cappuccino and one small, non-fat iced caramel latte, please," says a woman who looks normal but obviously isn't. "Grand mocha frappuccino for me," says the next. I thought about ordering a black coffee but quickly find something more complicated to help me prepare for power shopping. After all, I remind myself, no one ever said it was going to be easy.

the leader page

Another wasteful trip round the roads debate

The metaphor may be hackneyed but it has a particular resonance. Changing transport policy is indeed rather like turning round a supertanker: it takes an apparent eternity to alter direction even after the decision to do so has been made. We are currently at the midpoint of such a U-turn. The old policies of massive road-building and promoting the great car economy may be in retreat, but so far nothing has been put in their place.

We are all familiar with the problems. Our cities are choking. Our children are dying of asthma. Our old folk are housebound because they cannot cross the roads. The rest of us have to go by car everywhere because public transport has been driven off the roads. And as we drive we complain continually about the damage caused by others' vehicles. Congestion and pollution are always someone else's fault. Get the lorries off the roads, say the motorists. Get the cars off, say the road hauliers: a line with which it seems the Government is disposed to agree, according to last week's consultation document on the M25 and other trunk roads.

Yet solutions are always presented as fanciful and impossible. The debate has been hijacked on one hand by the pro-road "let's concrete over Britain" lobby, and on the other by Swampy-type activists with hair-shirt Utopian visions. In fact Professor Colin Buchanan got the measure of the problem three

decades ago with his seminal study "Traffic in Towns". Ever since everyone has agreed on the need for action, but little has been forthcoming. The previous government, particularly its last but one transport secretary, Dr Brian Mawhinney, played a duplicitous game. "Let's have a debate," Dr Mawhinney said, and 18 months later a consultation paper was issued which added nothing to what was known at the start. Meanwhile he slashed the roads programme to save billions for the Treasury.

And now the new government is playing the same game. In opposition, Labour produced its own transport paper, "Consensus for Change", much of which echoed the Tories' effort, showing that there was broad all-party agreement on transport policy.

Now all this history has been junked. This week John Prescott is expected to issue a consultation paper on an integrated transport policy, with the promise of a White Paper in the spring. By the time any of the contents are ready for legislation, we will probably be too near the next election for the Government to dare to introduce any of the controversial measures that are needed to make a real impact.

All this is unnecessary and a waste of time. Politicians on all sides have recognised that we cannot keep on encouraging greater car use. Throwing money at the problem by building more roads is not a viable or

sustainable policy. Traffic needs to be reduced, or at least contained. Better public transport systems and better facilities for cyclists and pedestrians should be provided. Residential areas should be traffic-calmed. And any new developments should be judged by whether they result in lots of extra traffic.

The situation at the moment is just about tolerable. On the whole, we can still get about, even though our journeys are often delayed by traffic or by the inadequacies of the transport infrastructure. But if the unrestrained growth of recent years is allowed to continue then we face nationwide

gridlock – and yet more widespread frustration and rage of the type which last week saw a stockbroker justifiably sentenced to five months in jail after she wilfully tried to run down a cyclist.

Yet, as our Whitehall correspondent, Christian Wolmar, points out in a pamphlet, "Unlocking the Gridlock", published today by Friends of the Earth, solutions are to hand, despite the politicians' paralysis. Transport planners have long been familiar with the type of measures that need to be adopted. They organise themselves little Grand Tours around Europe to see the cycle facilities of Groningen in

Holland, the public transport of Zürich, and the pedestrianisation schemes of Antwerp or Nuremberg. There are, sadly, no British towns on this tour because we are 20 years behind most European nations in recognising that the primacy of the car cannot continue. York is probably our most advanced small city, while in Edinburgh there are exciting innovations under the inspiration of George Hazel, the local director of transport who is implementing a series of policies ranging from pedestrianising Princes Street to creating safe routes for children to walk or cycle to school.

This is the sort of thing that needs to be done on a national scale. Zürich's trams are popular because the operators guarantee that they run on time at regular frequent intervals, even resorting to having spare trams on standby should there be a breakdown or delay. Similarly, Groningen has 50 per cent of road users on bicycles because it has had policies for more than 20 years that are designed to encourage them. Every year that the politicians do no more than produce more hot air, we get less fresh air.

The problem is that many of the required policies involve causing discomfort to the motorist, and the motorist lobby remains very powerful. Yet we are the motorists, and it seems that we may finally be ready to kick the habit. If this new round of debate is not to end

in tears, Labour is going to have to be brave and take the chance that we have really changed.

And there is one new policy which the Government should embrace if it wishes to make headway – road pricing. Not only will this encourage people out of their cars on to other forms of transport – and induce industry to re-examine rail and other alternatives – it will provide the cash to pay for better public transport.

The silly season – it ain't over yet

When it comes to silly summer stories this year we are spoiled for choice. There is the splendid Dodi-Di-Di-He soap opera surrounding the alleged two-timing of Princess Diana's latest male admirer (see tabloids *passim*). And there is the Peter Mandelson – seeker-after-world-domination or friend-of-the-poor saga (see broadsheets *ad nauseam*). In the interests of newspaper economy, here is a précis of stories to come: Di to employ focus groups. Labour consults soothsayer. Princess of Darkness to stand for NEC. Prince of Hearts weeps over landmine victims. Charity auction of Mandelson's suits. Hague warns Charles: you're too close to Mandy. Roll on September.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seize chance for peace in Ireland

Sir: Your powerful appeal to John Hume (leading article, 14 August) coincided with a fear which has chilled my spine since I heard that he was contemplating standing for the Irish presidency. I know and respect John Hume as a figure of great integrity and huge importance. He has worked for 30 years for a solution to the Irish problem. Why would he even consider, let alone publicly agonise over, a decision so obvious to your newspaper and to the rest of us?

Try as I will, I cannot help returning to the only reason which stands up to scrutiny. It must be that this able, proud, accomplished, respected leader of Ulster's nationalists can see no positive outcome to the talks. Why, unless he sees defeat staring him in the face, and an inevitable return to the cycle of violence, would a man of this calibre walk away from the victory (a just settlement) he has so long desired?

I trust your leading article and the appeals of others will persuade John to carry on the struggle and, later, take on the presidency of a new Ireland when his election can be celebrated by all the people on the whole island. As a Protestant who knows him, but not well, I would add my voice to yours: "John, do not give up. Do not desert the storm-tossed ship of negotiation for a seat in a grand empty room in Dublin. Risk honourable defeat, for there will be no honour in watching from Phoenix Park a tragedy you might by your stature and skill have prevented. And forgive me if my analysis is wrong."

GIL WARNOCK
Ballymore, Co Antrim

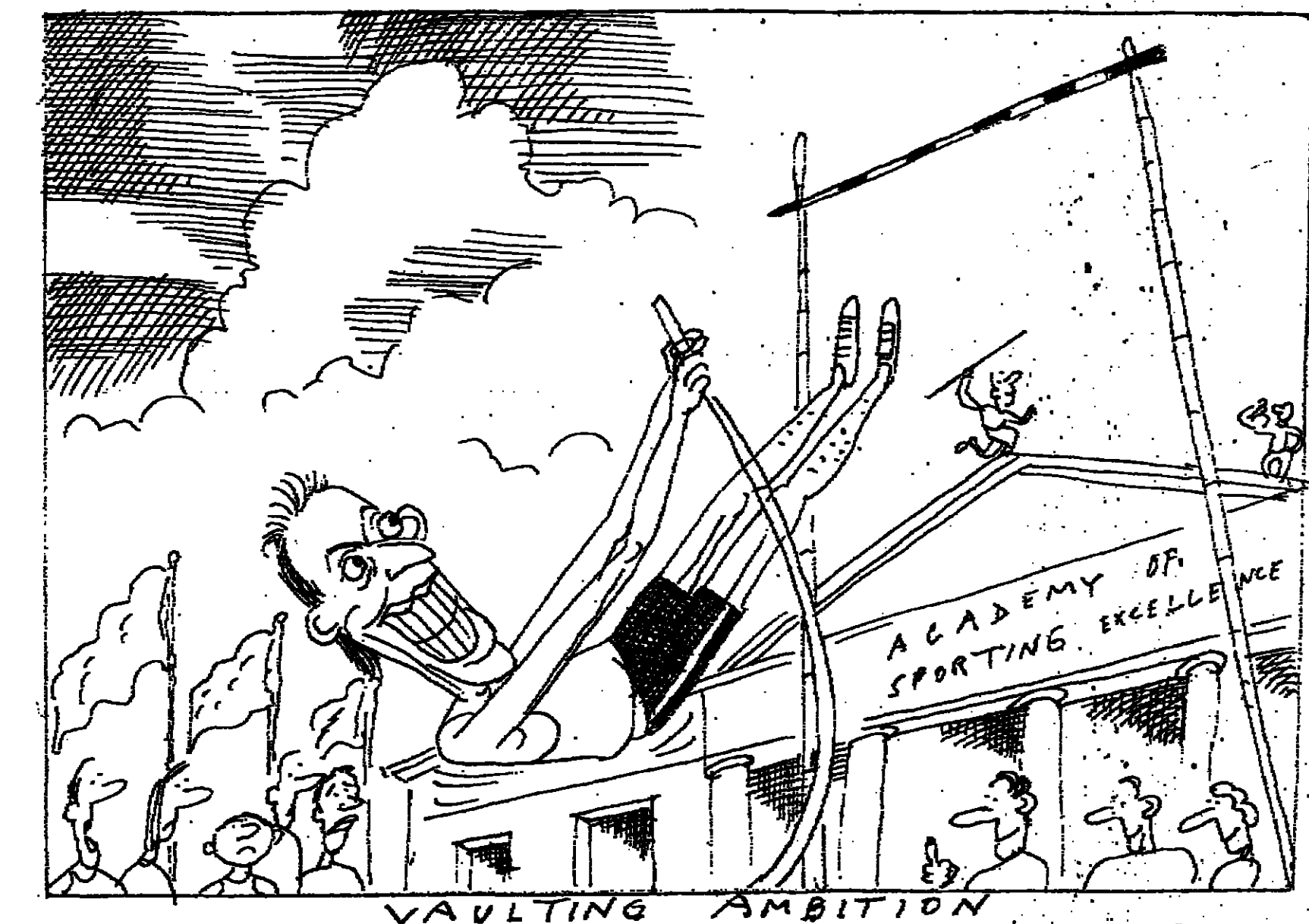
Sir: I agree with the headline on your leading article, "Hume has a bigger job than being president", but strongly disagree with your sentiments about the Irish presidency.

Perhaps the monarchy in Britain has descended into little more than a "figurehead" having little to do with "mainstream political life". Not so the Irish presidency. Did Mary Robinson's speech in the UN on Somalia have little to do with mainstream political life? Not to the lives saved by the subsequent UN humanitarian intervention. Mary Robinson transformed the presidency into one of the most relevant political posts for the Irish people. You say "she kept out of the affairs of Northern Ireland" yet remember the uproar when she shook hands with Gerry Adams. She has also invited many common people from both sides of the northern divide to the Irish presidential home.

These were important symbolic acts. Symbols are often more potent than Acts of Parliament. PETER McNAMARA
London WC1

Sir: We warmly welcome the restoration of the IRA ceasefire and hope that this opportunity will be used to secure a just and lasting peace. Trust and confidence cannot be built overnight and many problems need to be resolved; one important one concerns prisoners in England who are serving sentences in connection with the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Some have already spent over 20 years in jail and still do not know how much longer they will have to serve. Others have spent years in what human rights lawyers have



described as "concrete coffins": the Special Security Units (SSUs).

During the last IRA ceasefire, conditions for these prisoners actually deteriorated. The regime became even harsher. Sixteen months into the IRA ceasefire a Fine Gael parliamentary delegation visited these prisoners and concluded in their report (January 1996): "Their treatment is both cruel and inhumane... current Home Office treatment of prisoners is damaging and destabilising of the peace process." Parliamentary delegations by the Irish Labour Party and Fianna Fail came to similar conclusions.

This year an Amnesty International report said: "Many aspects of the SSU regime violate international standards. The conditions, which have led to serious physical and psychological disorders in prisoners, constitute cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment."

Urgent attention to the prisoners issue is vital. If political progress is to be secured, a first step would be the immediate transfer of all prisoners connected with the northern conflict to the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland according to their choice.

The procedures are in place. Both governments have signed the European convention for the transfer of prisoners. Progress, however, has been far too slow. Last week's transfer of one prisoner is welcome and hopefully signals the start of a fresh approach. We call for the immediate closure of the SSUs and the repatriation/transfer of all these prisoners without further delay.

PETRA SCHURENHOFFER, Dublin
Peace and Justice Group; PAUL MAY, British and Irish Human Rights Centre, London

JANE WINTER, British Irish Rights Watch, London; ROBBY McVEIGH, Centre for Research and Documentation, Belfast; MARTIN O'BRIEN, Committee on the Administration of Justice, Belfast; JEROME CONNOLLY, Irish Commission for Justice and Peace, Co Dublin; NUALA KELLY, Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, Dublin; MICHAEL FARRELL, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Dublin; JOHN WADHAM, Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties), London; PAUL O'CONNOR, Put Finucane Centre, Derry

Argument for roads won't run

Sir: The motoring organisations predictably attack suggestions that anyone should be deprived of the God-given right to drive a car wherever he or she chooses. Including on the M25 in peak hours ("Drivers face car ban on busy M25", 15 August). They rely once again on the argument that there is a body of drivers out there who will make their journey by car anyway – "If you restrict access to motorways, people will just drive on to local roads, which are not designed to carry these loads." The same argument is used to justify building more roads, to accommodate the "inevitable" increase in traffic.

This one really should be killed off once and for all. Each of us decides whether and how to make a particular journey by balancing up

his need to make it against the time, cost and inconvenience involved in the various means of making it. If I have to commute into central London from Hertfordshire, and the journey takes 50 minutes by car and 80 minutes by train, I shall travel by car – unless the cost rises enough to outweigh the convenience. If the train is quicker, I shall use that.

The task of the new crew at the Department of Transport is to shift the balance. Every measure that makes it a little quicker or more convenient or cheaper to use the train than the car will cause a few more people to switch over. STEPHEN CROMIE
London NW1

Death Railway still alive

Sir: It may be of some comfort to B F James (letter, 11 August) to know that the cost in suffering and death of building the wartime Thai-Burma railway is in fact well commemorated along the River Kwai. The much visited and beautifully maintained Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Kanchanaburi and Chung Kai, the recently developed Memorial at Hell Fire Pass, and the vividly informative memorial museum maintained by the Buddhist monks at Kanchanaburi are moving reminders of the terrible suffering of allied POWs and Asian labourers on the Death Railway.

B F James is concerned that a proposal to reopen the line threatens a vulgar, tourist-oriented exploitation of the site of such suffering. What has been mooted is reconstruction of the abandoned railway right through to Burma – a major project motivated by considerations far beyond the creation of a mere tourist attraction.

And use of the Thai-Burma railway would in fact be no novelty; while, after the war, much of the line was abandoned, a substantial portion was rebuilt and incorporated into the Thai railway system. It is at present possible, as it has been for 50 years, to travel by regular train from Nong Pladuk for 80 miles via Kanchanaburi and the famous bridge, to the end of the line at Nam Tok. Especially at weekends, this is a popular excursion for Thais and others; tourists may be, but their enjoyment, as facilitated by the railway, of the peace and natural beauty of the Kwai Noi valley need not be seen as a desecration. R H GRIEVE
Glasgow

What teachers do

Sir: It is absurd to suggest as Mrs Fuller does (letter, 14 August) that English teachers do not know how to teach sentence construction. They spend much of their working life doing just that. What the Department for Education and Employment presumably meant in the statement to the press (report,

12 August) was that teachers do not coach their pupils in the sort of grammatical hoop-jumping required by the pilot tests.

It is not difficult to teach grammatical rules in isolation. On the contrary, grammar exercises make an undemanding lesson for the teacher but, as research has shown, not always a useful one for the pupil. Knowledge gained in this way does not transfer into their own writing and reading. Assessment should be based on language in use, not on a random selection of grammatical exercises, as proposed in the pilot tests. ANNE BARNES
General Secretary
National Association for the Teaching of English
Sheffield

Sir: Mrs A Fuller (letter, 14 August) asks how it is possible to qualify as an English teacher without understanding English grammar. I share her dismay. I found English grammar an arduous ordeal until I was taught Latin. Maybe some knowledge of Latin should be a prerequisite for English teachers. ROBERT WRIGHT
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire

Rude Paris

Sir: The reason, I would suggest, for the variation in opinions on the people of France (letters, 14, 16 August) is dependent on whether you have visited Paris or not. Parisians are rude, ignorant and in a hurry. Provincial people are pleasant, attentive and relaxed. MD WELLS
Pinner, Middlesex

The men who launched Elvis

Sir: Now that 20 years have lapsed since the King of Rhythm and Blues died, it is time to tell the truth about Elvis.

Elvis was the first white Rhythm and Blues singer, everyone would agree on that; but he didn't play the music. The music was played by the first white Rhythm and Blues band and that band gave Elvis his original sound.

Elvis found getting the blues sound of the vocals hard and some of his early blues recordings took him over 100 takes to perfect. However those original recordings made by Elvis and the white studio musicians stand as the best white Rhythm and Blues ever recorded.

The band went on to record under the name of the Bill Black Combo, and their vocalist, Elvis, went on to be the King of Hollywood music. Elvis stood at the Blues crossroads and sold his soul to become king of all the world. But what did it profit him? He'd lost his Soul. PETE BAXTER
Hove,
East Sussex

Sir: The 20th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley has received considerable media attention. I hope that the 20th anniversary of the death of Maria Callas, on 16 September, will be appropriately observed. PATRICIA DRENNAN
Portsmouth,
Hampshire

Bring back the trees

Sir: The claim from Lesley Ferguson (letter, 15 August) on behalf of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation that more bird species live on heather moors than on bracken-covered moors is probably correct.

However, on the grouse moors in north-west Durham the choice should not be seen as heather or bracken but heather or a re-creation of the original forest, which was mixed woodland with much smaller areas of heather moor. Names such as Lune Forest, Hawkwood Head and the hamlet of Forest in Thedale (now surrounded by treeless grouse moors) tell you what the area was like before it was enclosed.

As mixed woodland is generally acknowledged to be the most species-rich habitat it is up to any conservationist to advocate this as the future for our uplands.

Despite all the claims and counterclaims the argument on shooting is essentially a moral one: whether it is right or wrong to kill living creatures for fun. DAVE SHEPHERDSON
Newcastle Green Park
Newcastle upon Tyne

Next stop

Sir: Paul Valley's irritation with the tautology in rail companies' announcements – "Your next station stop is Dumfries" – is understandable but misplaced ("A Bennett sketch without the gag", 15 August). The phrasing is surely deliberate, so as to leave nothing to chance. On a recent journey from Newcastle we were told on leaving York that our next scheduled stop was King's Cross, but our next stop was actually when one of the power units developed a defect shortly south of Grantham. WARWICK HILLMAN
Pinner, Middlesex

ads debate

The silly season
- it ain't over yet

The men who
launched Elvi

Bring back
the trees

Next stop

Don't mention the P word

Paedophilia is the new demon, but the betrayal of academic freedom is a greater disgrace, writes Glen Newey

Paedophilia has replaced witchcraft and communism in popular demonology. Last week Edinburgh University's principal, Sir Stewart Sutherland, sacked a university psychology lecturer, Chris Brand, after a disciplinary tribunal judged that an e-mail article by Brand on paedophilia was "disgraceful".

The university says it "went out of its way" to defend Brand last year, when the National Union of Students demanded his dismissal for having written a book, *The G-Factor*, a study of race and intelligence, which was also withdrawn by the publishers Wiley in the US. Now it transpires that the underlying principle was: two strikes and you're out. Brand's offence was to defend, via an e-mail message, the Nobel laureate Daniel Gajdusek, who claimed - pause for sharp intake of breath - that sexual activity by adolescent Polynesians might not be harmful in all cases.

It's hard not to conclude that Edinburgh found Brand an embarrassment and wanted to be rid of him. The official judgment - or rather the press release put out in its stead, as the judgment itself remains secret - talks about "undermining trust", which seems to mean that Edinburgh decided to back Brand over *The G-Factor*, as long as he kept quiet thereafter.

According to the press release, the tribunal's procedures conformed to 1988 legislation designed to "protect academic freedom" and its report "is a long and thoroughly argued document" - claims which would be more persuasive if the report had been made public. It adds that Brand's dismissal "in no sense... inhibits the entirely proper exercise of academic freedom".

Arguments about academic standards might carry more weight if this were not the institution which accepted an endowment from Arthur Koestler to establish a professorial chair in "para-

Even if these were simple issues, why should the opposite view be stifled?

psychology". But, of course, there's jolly about and defending paedophiles, one suspects, is bad publicity, is fewer applicants, is less cash.

This is not to say that Brand is someone you'd want to marry your daughter. His Web site dispenses some would-be *epigram* stuff about clerics pressing flowers into choirboys' sticky little palms, and lampoons the principal as "Dame" Stewart Sutherland. All very puerile, no doubt, and not a little galling for the top biscuit. But snook-cocking is not an indictable offence.

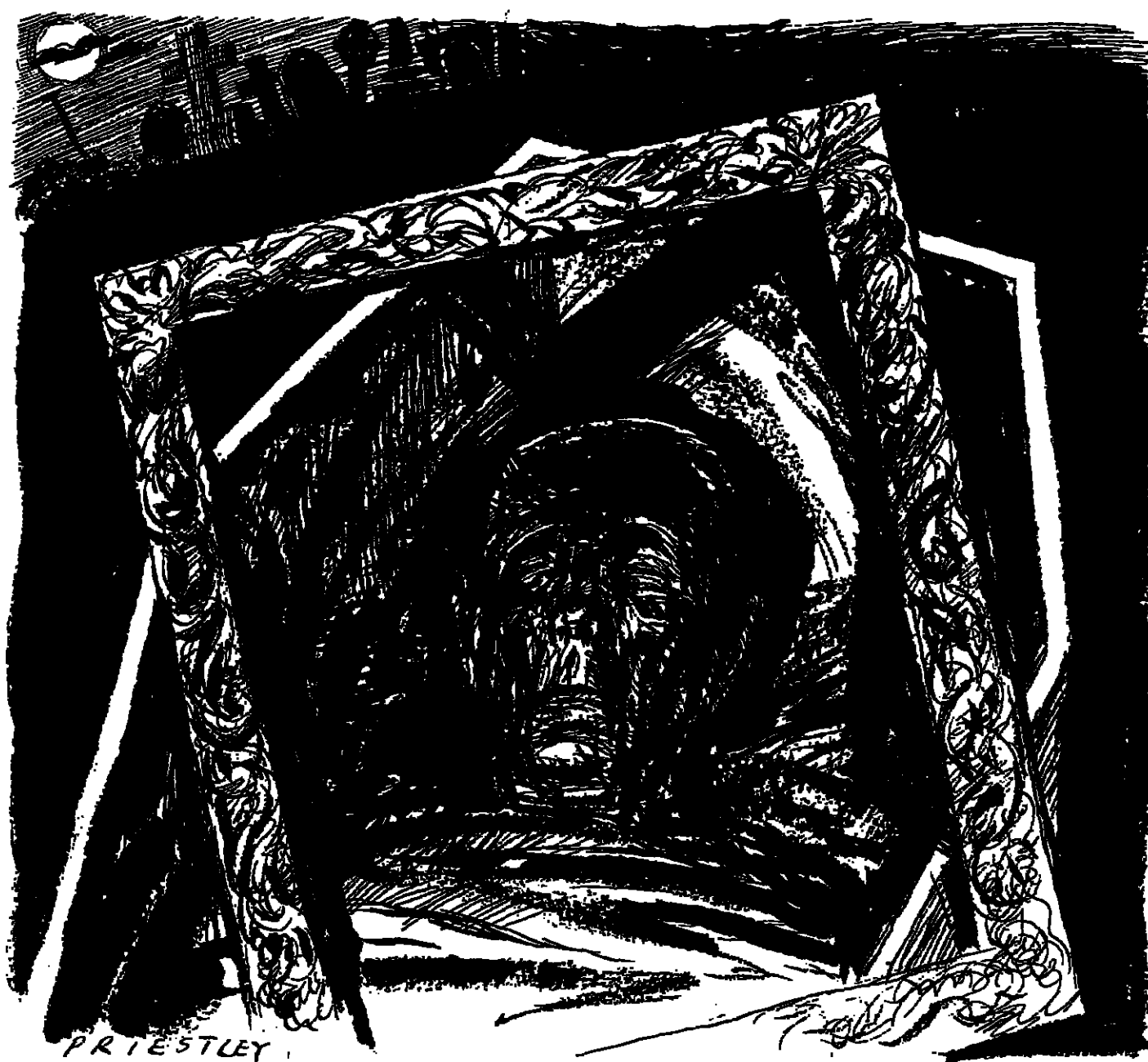
The media's paedophilia obsession - a characteristic mix of prurience and moralism - must rank among the great hypocrisies of our time. Recently a schoolteacher was driven to suicide after being charged with an offence (possessing child pornography) which, on any plausible view, ranks in the roll call of human villainy some way below wife battering, drunken driving or supplying torture equipment to foreign dictators.

The proposition which Brand endorsed was that paedophilia had been proven not always to be harmful to 14-year-olds. That is a controversial claim, which may well be false: Brand would have been on safer ground claiming that paedophilia had not been proven always to be harmful to them. Still, there clearly must be grounds for arguing that sex between 14-year-olds is not the same as an adult having sex with a three-year-old.

The arguments surrounding the debate on whether the age of consent for homosexual males should be lowered to 16 have shown that there must inevitably be something arbitrary about the thresholds which the law has to impose. In such matters, notoriously, the law has to make judgment about not just an individual's development, but also the rate of development between individuals. The result leaves the law open to accusations of failing to protect victims of adult sexual predation, on the one side, and of "heterosexist" double standards on the other.

Perhaps these issues are as simple as simple-minded tabloid headlines claim - though I doubt it. Even if they are, we still need to be stilled, and why anyone should lose their livelihood for expressing it. The real disgrace is not Brand's remarks, but Edinburgh's betrayal of academic freedom. As the great Noam Chomsky has pointed out, nobody wants to ban things they don't dislike. Whether someone favours censorship depends on whether they favour banning things of which they disapprove.

The writer is a lecturer in Philosophy at Sussex University.



Is it wrong to use a dead body for art?

by Jane Wildgoose

Anthony-Noel Kelly, the sculptor whose case is currently before a magistrates' court in London, attracted a lot of media attention in April when he was arrested for the possession of human remains. His aristocratic background (cousin of the Duke of Norfolk), the fact that human remains were found at his country seat as well as his south London studio, and the opportunity to drag Prince Charles's name into the story (Kelly is a tutor at the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture) provided an irresistible combination of circumstances for some areas of the press. But this is an important case, posing questions about the role of death in art and, crucially for Kelly, the role of the artist in death.

Why are his activities regarded as bizarre and gruesome? Is it more acceptable for doctors and scientists to have access to human body tissue for their work than artists? What are the precedents for Kelly's kind of work, and why should anyone want to do it now?

The practice of taking casts of dead human tissue (Kelly's method) has a long history. Until the Anatomy Act of 1832 the flayed bodies of recently executed criminals were often cast in plaster for anatomical study by both scientists and artists. William Burke who, with William Hare, murdered 17 people in 1827 to sell their corpses to Dr Knox's anatomy school in Edinburgh, was himself publicly dissected following his execution and his body exhibited to an estimated 40,000 people. You can still see it in the anatomy school today, since the judge passing sentence ordered that it should remain in constant use. At the Wellcome Institute's recent *Dr Death* exhibition you could also examine a small card case, one of several such items made at the time, bound in Burke's tanned skin.

Visitors to the Reynolds exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1986 passed straight from the artist's palette to the cast of a flayed body, the corpse of a man reputedly hanged for smuggling. The purpose of this object, originally made in 1751 and cast according to the neo-classical fashion of the day in the heroic pose of a dying gladiator, was for the study of anatomy at the Academy.

Another cast of a flayed corpse, taken for more bizarre reasons in 1801, was later on view at Kenwood House. This was cast at the express wish of three academicians in order to resolve an argument about the anatomical veracity of the depiction of the crucified Christ by old masters. The still-warm body of executed murderer James Legg was nailed to a cross, suspended, and cast when it cooled. The academicians were pleased to find they were right, the old masters often wrong.

The interest in the body - live and dead - in contemporary art is not new in essence, only in context. That Kelly should have made a plaster death mask of his grandmother's face would once not have been considered unnatural at all. In 1633 Venetia Digby's grieving husband, Sir Kenelm Digby, commissioned Van Dyck to make preparatory drawings for her posthumous portrait, in situ, "the second day after she was dead". Van Dyck's portrait was the centrepiece of an exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery in 1995 and appeared on all the posters. Yet Kelly's integrity and taste are questioned when he exhibits, even on a small scale, sculptures that also represent the recognisable features of the dead taken from death masks.

We seem ready to accept art based on similar material when it is magically sanitised by the passage of time. Last month's *Ancient Faces* exhibition at the British Museum, full of haunting portraits of the dead from Roman Egypt and their mummy cases, shrouds and other objects, was a charnel house of stolen bodies. We were moved, but only after complacently laying aside any qualms about the ethics of moving ancient corpses from their hallowed resting ground.

Perhaps we are also uneasy about the idea of a price tag being attached to the art of death. Would this be an issue if Van Dyck's portrait of Venetia came up for sale? Until a couple of years ago you could buy replica death masks of William Blake and John Keats at the National Portrait Gallery shop. If they had only just died, would we have been happy to buy them?

The relationship between the living and the dead was raised in connection with the Kelly case. How would grieving relatives and friends feel if they recognised the features of the deceased in a work of art? For Sir Kenelm Digby this was a positive aspect of Venetia's portrait, made to remind him of the physical presence of the woman he loved at the point of her dissolution.

If, in acquiring the materials for his sculptures, Kelly has broken the law, then he is as answerable to its process as any responsible adult. Judging from his published comments ("I am not a monster, I am an artist, trying to co-operate with the police") he is aware of this. The 1832 Anatomy Act was meant to halt abuse of and profiteering from the dead, primarily for the purposes of medical science. But apart from allegations that Kelly has broken the law, his work appears to have transcended other, much less easily definable "moral" laws regarding the suitable treatment of a corpse.

We probably all have differing ideas about this depending on our background and outlook. These

ideas are no longer so clearly defined by religious and social guidelines as they once were. The legally sanctioned practice of dissecting the corpses of executed criminals dates from the early 16th century. It is an extension of society's moral attitude to criminals, which also allowed their bodies to be drawn and quartered. This terrifying judgement was intended to ensure that there was a fate worse than death: that there could be no possible resurrection on the Day of Judgment.

What then is the acceptable use of the body in art and science now? How do we protect not just the public but also the individual scientists and artists? Much of the anxiety associated with Kelly's case seems to arise from the fact that he operates as a private individual, rather than in an official capacity as part of an institution. The Victorian framework for artists to work legitimately with corpses has largely fallen into disuse this century, as the rise of modernism has eroded the tradition of "objective" anatomical study in art schools. It seems that Kelly's taste in choosing, literally, to live with the dead, and his apparent ease with human decay, have brought his professionalism into question. Do we fear that he may have unacceptable motives for his activities, which only masquerade as art? No such suspicion attached to the academicians who were allowed to have a man's corpse crucified to settle a mere argument.

Kelly's published statements suggest an artist who is trying to make art that addresses the human condition. He says he attempts to dignify and immortalise the state of human decay after death: that he believes beauty may reside there and, to find it, takes casts of dead human tissue which he embellishes with precious metals. Beauty? Investigations into the corpse? Precious metals to connote value and longevity? When did we last hear of an artist publicly admitting to a quest for beauty? This is the shock of the old, not the new.

The urge to make art that inquires into the workings of the human body, its vulnerability and mortality, is as pertinent now, when medicine and science have so altered our expectations and experiences of life, illness, beauty, ageing and death, as it has ever been. If the relationship between art, science, society and death has become unbalanced it must be restored. Now is the very time to reconsider the social and legal framework in which artists may continue an age-old tradition in a legitimate and responsible manner.

The writer is a visiting lecturer at the Royal College of Art and Winchester School of Art. This article appears in the current issue of the *New Statesman*.

Cobra soup that won't blow a spy's cover

Is your cooking getting a little dull? Never fear, the CIA is here. That's right, the Central Intelligence Agency has decided to publish a cookbook. No one has to settle for dinner with Delia again, or for trying to do it the River Café way; now you can sup with the world's top secret agents. This means getting serious about the idea of cobra soup starters. It's the kind of thing that gives a dinner party a real buzz.

The book is called *Spies, Black Ties and Mango Pies* and consists of favourite recipes from more than 100 CIA wives and agents stationed undercover in some of the world's most dangerous places. The result is not simply an excuse to indulge in gags like "Walter, there's a spy in my soup". It is also extremely helpful if you need to know in a hurry how to avoid serving tapeworms in the main course.

Each recipe is preceded by a spy-type anecdote. You know, like the time the soufflé fell at the same time as the government, or when the dinner was peppered with a little machine-gun shot. The recipe for Sweet Onion Rings in Beer Batter, for instance, is accompanied by tips on how to flee Libya in fear of your lives. Sweet indeed.

The agency that is famously out of touch evidently thinks the cookbook - published as part of the CIA's 50th anniversary celebrations - will help to make spies seem more, well, human.

"We wanted to give the public a different picture than they are used to of CIA families," one contributor told the *Chicago Tribune*, "and to emphasise that these are real people. They have real spouses, real children and they have all the same problems that any other real family has."

This reality check does not go as far as actual surnames and most of the recipe contributors opt for anonymity. If this all seems over-dramatic, remember that this is the agency that gives numbers rather than last names to children at its main day-care centre. Recipes evidently pose even more of a security risk.

A woman identified only as Barbara X gave this explanation: "If people in foreign embassies go through and read the stories and try to figure out time and place, they'll know so-and-so must have been working for the agency. We didn't want to give away too much and make it horribly crystal clear where we were."

Of course, some things provide just a teeny clue. You do not have to be James Bond to figure out that whoever contributed the recipe for

cobra soup was not stationed in Dorking. Here's the recipe:

Ingredients:
1 cobra (medium size)
1 whole head garlic, coarsely chopped
1 teaspoon salt
2 dashes bottled hot pepper sauce
1 teaspoon monosodium glutamate

Directions: Catch a cobra. Cut off the head, remove the skin and internal organs. Chop the body into two-inch pieces. Place in large pot with half a gallon of water and boil for 45 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and boil for further 30 minutes. Serve hot.

Forget about the cold war, this is a hot one. The rumour is that it is to die for.

Ann Treneman

Another body of opinion on the King

Today I am proud to bring you an exclusive interview with a leading expert on the late Elvis Presley, Jerry Bonaventura. Jerry is over here from his native America to publicise his new book, *Elvis Presley - The Posthumous Years*. Welcome to Britain, Mr Bonaventura.

Thanks very much. Incidentally, I am over here from my native America, not my native Canada, as you just said. I am sorry. It was just a joke. I appreciate it. Especially as I am a Canadian.

You're a Canadian?
Yes, I think you'll find that most of the most important and influential figures in American public life are of Canadian origin.

Bill Clinton isn't Canadian.
My point exactly.

(FOR GOODNESS SAKE GET TO THE POINT! - ED)

Yes, well, turning to your book, *Elvis Presley, The Posthumous Years*, I believe this is the first publication on the man which actually takes his dying day as its starting point.

Apart from his autopsy report. Apart, as you say, from his autopsy report. But isn't this a little unconventional? To write the life of a man and deal only with his death years?

Well, there are two answers to that. One is that his life has been exhaustively written about, and the only space for a new book was in his posthumous days. That's obviously a trivial and facile answer, so I won't give that. The other is that what has happened to Elvis's reputation in the years since his death is just as interesting in its own way as what happened when he was alive.

How interesting is it?
Very interesting.

Try and interest me.
Well, for starters, you've got the whole phenomenon of people who refuse to believe that Elvis is dead. That never happened in his lifetime.

On the contrary, there were millions of people in his lifetime who refused to believe he was dead. I was one of them. I always thought he was alive in his lifetime.

Wise guy. What I am saying is that there are people now who think he is still alive, which is the same as believing he was dead during his lifetime. There were in fact quite a few people in his lifetime who thought he was dead at the time. They were nearly right, some of the time.

Where do they think he is now, those people who think he is still alive?
On another planet, mostly.

Do they think Colonel Tom Parker is also alive on another planet, still forcing the reborn Elvis to make very bad alien movies?
No, I have not come across



Miles Kingston

that theory before. (PERHAPS WE COULD GET BACK TO THE BOOK - ED)

Getting back to your book, did you find it difficult to write about a man who died when you were only three years old?

Not at all. I was reading the other day in your English papers about a life of Daniel Defoe which has just come out. Nobody says to the author of that, "Wasn't it a bit daring writing about a man who has been dead so long, whom you never even met?"

Point taken. On the other hand, the book is about Defoe when alive, not about the dead Defoe.

Listen, wise guy. Every biography I have ever read of anyone famous has a chapter or two at the beginning about the subject's antecedents. About his parents and their parents and where they came from, and the politics of the time and all that. Right?

Right.
So what you've got there is a whole lot of stuff about the man's prenatal background. About him before he is alive. Right?

Right.
So, if they can write all that stuff about his prenatal years, why can't I do it about his posthumous years? After all, with all due respect to Mr Defoe, there is nobody going round imitating him today, but it is reckoned there are now more than 10 times the number of Elvis impersonators alive today than when he was alive.

If they go on increasing at that rate, it has been calculated there will be more people imitating him by the year 2044 than people listening to them. Yes, And that's just the impersonators who imitate the young, living Elvis. Did you realise that there is a growing school of Elvis impersonators who imitate Elvis Presley as he would be if he were alive today and a 62-year-old rocker? (THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING AT LAST! LET'S HAVE SOME MORE OF THIS TOMORROW - ED)

SUMMER SALE

DEPARTURES SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

PARIS

£109 (17 total)

1 night B&B Fri & Sat •
★ ★ ★ Grand Hotel de Paris •
★ ★ ★ Additional nights £18 •

AMSTERDAM

£109

1 night B&B •
★ ★ ★ Amstel Hotel •
★ ★ ★ Additional nights £28 •
• Flights from London & Manchester

PRAGUE

£233

2 nights B&B •
★ ★ ★ Hotel Julian •
★ ★ ★ Additional nights £26 •

BARCELONA

£199

2 nights B&B •
★ ★ ★ Santamaría •
★ ★ ★ Additional nights £19 •
Sovereign, Hotel Catalonia

London and regional airport departures available
Centrally located hotels with ensuite bathrooms
Exclusive & charming hotel upgrades available

Telephone for best city break prices to:
Bruges, Budapest, Dublin,
Florence, Istanbul, Lisbon, Madrid,
Nice, Rome, Seville and Venice

* Flight prices do NOT include any airport taxes.
Prices per person based upon two people sharing a room
ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
For reservations phone Mon to Thu 09.00 to 18.00 hrs, Fridays 09.00 - 14.00 hrs

0171-565 6677

CITYTRAVELLER DIRECT LTD

obituaries / gazette

Tom Eckersley

Tom Eckersley was the quiet giant of British graphic design. He belonged to that school of eminent modernist designers like Abram Games, F.H.K. Henriksen and Hans Schlegel who established their formidable reputations during the Second World War.

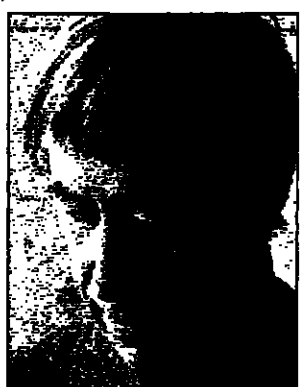
In addition to his war service in the Royal Air Force as a cartographer (1940-45), Eckersley designed posters for public service agencies such as the Ministry of Information, the GPO and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The emergence of government-commissioned design during the war greatly expanded the opportunities for poster designers like Eckersley. His direct, economical and powerful image-making was ideally suited to disseminating with urgency vital information about the country's war needs.

His ability to communicate more with less is portrayed superbly in a public information poster of 1944 for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents. An approaching car is shown in a highly enlarged side mirror with the slogan "You are being followed, use your driving mirror". The subtle simplicity of imagery delivers the message with directness and authority.

Tom Eckersley was rooted in the tradition of the old poster school of art. He believed that drawing, combined with a strong, simple visual idea, and clean typography were the essential elements that produced great design. In 1948 he was appointed OBE for services to British poster design.

He was born in 1914 in New-



Eckersley: more with less

ton Willows, Lancashire, and was educated at Lords College, Bolton and Salford School of Art (1930-34), where he studied under Martin Iyas. As a student he became particularly interested in graphic design and was influenced by Surrealist artists such as Miró and Max Ernst, by the great French poster designer A.M. Cassandre, by Edward McKnight-Kauffer's dramatic posters for London Transport and by the graphic work of Hans Schlegel.

Moving to London in 1934 he set up in partnership with his fellow student Eric Lombers, and soon attracted such important clients as Shell Mex, the GPO, London Transport, the BBC and Austin Reed. His teaching career began during this period as a visiting lecturer in graphic design at Westminster School of Art and then at Borough School of Art, London (1937-39).

Eckersley Lombers was forced to dissolve during the Second World War, though a later posting to the Air Ministry's publicity unit resulted in the opportunity to continue his practice with Lombers for a short period.

After the war, Eckersley established a successful freelance practice, attracting many major advertising clients including Gillette, Guinness, British European Airways, KLM and the Post Office. Using strong, solid colour and simple graphic imagery Eckersley's posters communicated in a clear, concise and satisfyingly coherent way. In drab post-war Britain, they were colourful and engaging.

In 1957 he was appointed Head of the Department of Design at the London College of Printing, where his influence, exacting standards, devotion and constant encouragement of his students gained him respect and admiration. One ex-student, David Hillman of Pentagram, remembers him as "famous for expressing two ideas in one drawing, for instance one face with two expressions, and in all his posters there was always a strong idea".

During the 1970s Eckersley continued to produce posters for London Transport. In one of 1975 depicting an early locomotive, his bold aesthetics of solid colour and

shape emphasised the subject matter's mass and power in a dramatic and point-blank graphic statement. On retiring from teaching in 1976 he returned to practice design full-time.

The character and direction of poster design had changed drastically, thanks to the use of colour photography and the garish techniques of hard-edged advertising, but clients such as Unicef and the World Wildlife Fund still sought out his compelling and original work.

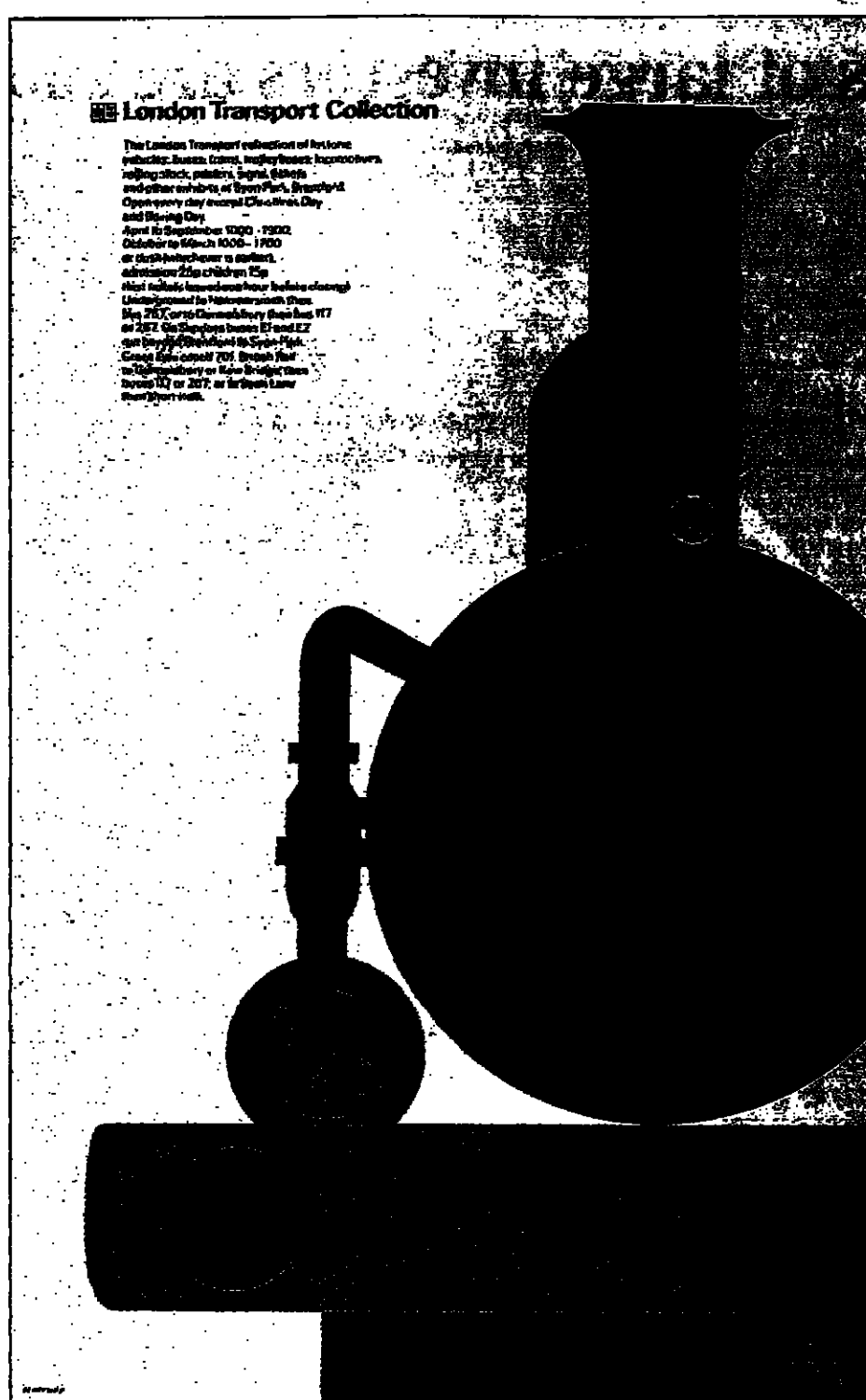
Although the greater part of his finest work was for posters, he also illustrated several books including E.A. Cabrelli's *Animals on Parade* (1947) and D. Eckersley's *Cat of Nine Lives* (1947), and in 1954 wrote *Poster Design*. In addition he designed murals, the most notable of which was at Heathrow Airport Underground station.

A fellow of both the Chartered Society of Designers (CSD) and the Society of Typographical Designers, Eckersley was appointed a Royal Designer for Industry in 1963. More recently he received the CSD (Chartered Society of Designers) medal, in 1990.

His work was exhibited internationally in the United States, Sweden, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Holland and Britain, and his designs are in the permanent collections of graphics in the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Imperial War Museum, London Transport Museum, the National Gallery of Australia, MoMA in New York, the United States Library of Congress, and Die Neue Sammlung Staatliches Museum in Munich.

Tom Eckersley was one of the generation that bridged the gap between what was known as commercial art and the highly developed profession of graphic design as it is known today. Marion Henrich, the widow of Eckersley's fellow designer, the great F.H.K. Henriksen, remembers him as "a strongly principled man, a devoted teacher who was highly respected. He was a designer who possessed such a sure judgement and feel for what was high quality".

In a long and distinguished career spanning over 60 years,



A dramatic graphic statement in a poster Eckersley designed for the London Transport Museum, 1975

producing an enormous output of graphic work, Tom Eckersley was always the exemplary professional designer who maintained his authority and eminence as both a practitioner and educator. He remains an

influential figure for many of today's leading graphic designers.

Patrick Argent

Thomas Eckersley, graphic designer: born Newton Willows, Lancashire 30 September 1914;

OBE 1948; Head of Department of Design, London College of Printing 1957-76; RDI 1963; married 1st Daisy Eckersley (three sons), 2nd 1966 Mary Kessell; died London 4 August 1997.

Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

At the Hackney Empire, East London in 1990, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, "Shahen-shah-e-qawwali" – "the brightest shining star of qawwali" – sat cross-legged and barefoot on the concert stage. To his left were the other members of his "party": an eight-man chorus, a tabla player, two hand-pumped harmoniums, and further from him, the youngest member of the ensemble, his pupil. Over the drone of the harmonium the chorus set up a slow pattern of handclaps. As simple as that. The clapping initiated a rhythm of expectation, a yearning that cried out for the Voice which would become the medium of still greater yearning. As soon as you heard it – minutes into a performance which lasted for hours and left you dazed, ecstatic – you were held by the implacable power of the voice of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

In our century there have been only one or two voices like this: voices that rend the soul even as they soothe it. A voice like this, like the voice of Callas or of the great Egyptian singer Om Caloum, longs to be answered by something as beautiful as itself. And so it soars. Higher and further, until it consumes and destroys itself. Or until it finds God. That is why, on Peter Gabriel's soundtrack of *Score's 77: The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988), it is Nusrat's voice you hear in the climactic moments of the Passion. Oliver Stone, meretriciously, in *Natural Born Killers* (1994), and Tim Robbins, in *Dead Man Walking* (1995), also saw the potential in that voice for conveying a mood of, respectively, delicious excitement or unbearable pathos.

Appearing on a sound-track album alongside Bruce Springsteen and Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam offers an indication of his popularity; the award of many honorary degrees and, in 1995 of a Unesco prize, show the extent to which he was esteemed; in his native Pakistan – and in neighbouring India – he was revered. The immense narrative propulsion of his music was enough to raise even the most secular listeners to a state of bewildered grace, irrespective of what they knew of the music's essential, religious connection with Sufism, the mystical sect of Islam founded in 10th-century Persia.

A version of his devotional music, *qawwali* (literally "utterance"), in something like its present form, was established in the Indian sub-continent at the end of the 13th century. Nusrat himself came from a line of *qawwal* stretching back over 600 years. He was born in Lyallpur – now Faisalabad – in Pakistan in 1948 and received informal lessons from his father Ustad Fateh Ali Khan, a *qawwali* master. When his father died in 1964 Nusrat began training with his father's eldest brother, By 1971, with the death of his uncle, Mubarak Ali Khan, he was already established as one of the greatest living *qawwals*. Since then, especially in the last eight or nine years of his life, he brought this music to a worldwide audience.

Much of the credit for this popularity must go to the festival organisers Womad (the

first performed at one of their festivals, in Britain, in 1985) and to Gabriel's record label Real World. Nusrat's greatest hits run to over 20 volumes and there are dozens of fine concert recordings, but the best-produced albums – like *Shahen-shah* (1989) and *Shahbaz* (1991), were all on Gabriel's label. There are dozens of remixes and samples of Nusrat floating around the Asian dance circuit but, again, the most sensitive of these are found on Real World, on *Muski Musti* (1990) and *Night Song* (1996), both made in collaboration with the Canadian electronics maverick Michael Brook.

It was a dub-heavy Massive Attack remix of "Muski Musti" that brought Nusrat to the ears of a generation of chubbies who, at least initially, were interested in a different kind of ecstatic experience to the one offered by his traditional work. As *qawwali* developed so the devotion and love offered to saints and prophets came increasingly to resemble expressions of secular, sensual love. Not surprisingly, this combined with Nusrat's willingness to embrace western electronic dance music, led to accusations from conservative elements in Pakistan that the devotional character of the music was being debased, cheapened.

There was no hint of compromise or sell-out in Nusrat's cross-over work, however, only of musical open-mindedness and boundary-pushing exploration. For many listeners Nusrat's east-west albums provided a way in to the recordings of traditional work which continued to appear on a bewildering variety of labels. By the robust standards of *qawwali*, his last traditional release on Real World, *The Last Prophet* (1994), was a relatively gentle album, consolidating the repertoire of dedications to prophets and saints, and only gradually attaining the sustained heights of "Jewleh-Lal", the 25-minute chant on *Shahbaz*.

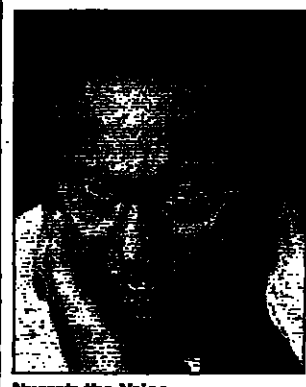
No recordings, though, quite convey the overwhelming experience of seeing Nusrat performing live. Especially since you always found yourself asking how long his voice could last? How long he could continue to soar?

There were signs of fatigue or restraint in his concerts of the last years, especially when he was playing in a setting like the Barbican where the staff, ignorant or indifferent to the etiquette of *qawwali*, were obliged to escort back to their seats any members of the audience who wanted to dance on or near the stage. In more relaxed venues, as the chants took hold, the audience would be in a state of near delirium, showering the master with money. Nusrat's hands which, initially, had been simply rising and falling, emphasising the rhythm, would begin tracing invisible dance scriptures in the air. Pitting himself against the mass power of the chorus, he would fling back elaborations of the main phrases, leading them, in surging, hypnotic repetitions, towards a series of rapturous crescendos.

By then Nusrat was no longer projecting his voice, he had become the physical incarnation of the Voice. Much western religious music seems clammy with death; by the gallop of handclaps and the dust-swirl of tabla, Nusrat's music exalted in and of itself, incandescent, burning. In the words of Rumi, the 13th-century Sufi mystic: I am not a voice, I am the fire singing. What you hear is cracking in you.

Geoff Dyer

Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, singer: born Lyallpur, Pakistan 1948; married (one daughter); died London 16 August 1997.



Nusrat: the Voice

Billie Stephens

Billie Stephens was one of the few naval officers to escape from Colditz, the "escape-proof" castle near Leipzig used as German prisoner-of-war camp during the Second World War.

During the raid on St Nazaire on 27 March 1942, Stephens commanded Motor Launch 192 with considerable skill and bravery. Intelligence reports had indicated that the new German battleship *Typhic* had been completed. If she broke out into the Atlantic and then, like Bismarck, headed for France, the only dock that could accommodate her was at St Nazaire at the mouth of the River Loire.

Operation Chariot was devised: a daring scheme in which the destroyer *Cambeltown*, laden with five tons of explosives, would crash the gates of the dock and blow them up. To accompany her she had an escort of two destroyers and smaller vessels, including 16 motor launches. Under intensive fire *Cambeltown* hit the caisson of the lock gate at 1.30am. Hoping to draw the fire from *Cambeltown* and to inflict further damage by landing commandos, the motor launches had a tough task. Only four returned.

Stephens, in one of the leading motor launches was almost beamed of the harbour wall when his ship was hit amidships by gunfire. Completely immobilised and on fire in the petrol compartment, he had no option but to order his men to abandon ship.

They managed to swim ashore and carry their wounded and were soon taken prisoner by a patrol. *Cambeltown*, 10 hours later, blew up, wrecking the main gate and killing a number of German officers who were inspecting her.

Stephens and his crew were taken to a courtyard, searched and then lined up against a wall. The men felt certain of their fate, but fortunately an officer arrived to take control. They were then put into an underground store and, even though they had several severely wounded men, were denied water. The prisoners were then taken to Stalag 133 and confined in appalling conditions. Stephens was sent to Wilhelmshaven and interrogated before being sent to Marlag, from where he made his first escape. En route to Oflag IV C (Colditz) Stephens jumped from the train, but was captured the next day and sent on to Colditz to serve a week in isolation.

Major Pat Reid, in *The Colditz Story* (1952) recalled his early impression of Stephens: He was handsome, fair-haired, with piercing blue eyes and a Nelsonian nose. He walked as if he was permanently on the deck of a ship. He was a daredevil, and his main aim appeared to be to force his way into the German area of the camp and then back his way out with a metaphorical cutlass.

Five weeks later, Stephens and Major Ronnie Littledale had their plan to escape accepted by the committee. They



Colditz prisoners (from left): Stephens with Pat Reid and Jack Best

asked for two others, one of whom should have skill in lock picking. Flt-Lt Hank Wardle was chosen for this task, along with Major Reid. There followed days of preparation based on previous efforts to escape.

Reid insisted that each man carry a small suitcase even though these would hinder the escape from the camp. He felt that the suitcase was the hallmark of respectability; the only men travelling without a suitcase were fugitives. Wearing balaclavas, gloves and socks over their shoes and carrying their suitcases muffled with blankets containing sheets, they began their escape on 14 October. Pat Reid led the way through a kitchen window. Each time a sentry turned his back, Reid signalled for one of the others to crawl through. The next move

was through a barred window which gave access to flat roofs which were well illuminated: a sentry was only 15 yards away.

The Battle of Britain pilot Douglas Bader was acting as an observer, conducting the camp orchestra. When the sentry turned his back the orchestra stopped playing. Each of the four men was then able to make a dash for the shadows of a ventilator. After overcoming a number of awkward situations, they were confronted by the only means of escape, a narrow flue. Stripping themselves naked, they managed to squeeze through. Somewhat bruised, they dressed in a nearby shrubbery. They then strolled nonchalantly past the sleeping sentry in the barracks. They knotted their sheets and dropped, in three stages of

18ft, into a dry moat. While they were doing this Stephens developed a tickle in his throat, which disturbed the dogs – in desperation, he stuffed his mouth full of grass and dirt. The men then climbed the outer wall, which was only 10ft high. At 4am they shook hands, split into two pairs, and Stephens and Littledale set off together.

They walked to a station at Rochlitz and caught the train to Chemnitz. En route to Nuremberg they changed at Hoff, where they sat in the station drinking beer. Warned to keep away from Stuttgart, they travelled on minor rail lines until they reached Tübingen. After two days of walking they reached the Swiss border which they crossed under cover of darkness. Their journey from Colditz had taken only five days. Reid and Wardle, who had travelled a different route, had arrived 24 hours earlier. All were interned in Switzerland.

In June 1940 Stephens crossed the Swiss border and made his way across France and over the Pyrenees into Spain, where once again he was imprisoned. Using his by now well-honed guile, he offered his wristwatch to a guard for a telephone call to the British Embassy in Madrid. He was smuggled out in the boot of a large American car to Gibraltar and from there by air to the UK.

William Lawson Stephens was the son of a Belfast shipping agent and timber importer. He

was born in Belfast and educated at Stretford before joining his father's firm. He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1930 and at the outbreak of the Second World War joined the coastal forces, for which he was perfectly suited.

After the war Stephens returned to Northern Ireland to continue with the family business. He became chairman of Northern Bank and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board as well as Commissioner of Belfast Harbour and High Sheriff of County Down. He was also involved in the Missions to Seamen.

This debonair man, full of charisma, was always immaculate, fit and alert. He had a certain magic and an excitement to him. He was absolutely devoted to his Swiss wife Chou-chou who sheltered him after he crossed the Swiss border. They delighted in entertaining their many friends and in playing endless hours of bridge and the French edition of Scrabble. In the late Eighties they moved to France, to a cottage near Nice for the sake of her health. Her death in 1993 was a severe blow to him.

R. Rowland and Max Arthur

William Lawson Stephens, naval officer and businessman; born Belfast 9 March 1911; DSC 1942 and Bar 1943; married 1946 Chou-chou de Meyer (died 1993); died Chateaufort de Grasse, France 3 August 1997.

Nina Coltart

Nina Coltart was one of the most admired and liked psychoanalysts in Britain. For 35 years she was an active member of the British and International psychoanalytic community and she played a major role in extending the influence of analytic ideas outside that world. For 10 years, from 1972, she was the Director of the London Clinic of Psychoanalysis. Here she fostered solid relationships with the world of psychiatrists and doctors who referred patients for analysis and she developed a team of medical and psychologist analysts who valued the climate of co-operation and respect she was able to create and sustain. She was involved



Coltart: devoid of jargon

with the academic and administrative activities of the British Psychoanalytical Society of which, besides being a member

of several committees, she was a Vice-President.

Privately, she had a heavy caseload of patients, trainees and supervisees, but she also became renowned as an assessor of patients in need of a psychological help. She conducted some 3,000 such consultations, and helped many young professionals to build their practices; but equally important, both referers and patients spoke with gratitude of her contribution.

Orthodoxy, however, was not really acceptable to Coltart and she moved on to a wider application of the psychoanalytic theories she valued. She was a keen participant in the world of psychotherapy, gave much support

to the Arbours Association in London, and supervised and taught members of other training organisations. Her lectures, papers and, later, her books were valued for their insights, phrased in language devoid of jargon, dogma or pretentiousness.

Nina Coltart was born in 1927 in Kent, where her father was a GP. Together with her younger sister Gill, they were evacuated to Cornwall in 1940, where they lived with their maternal grandmother. Nina spoke with warmth of their nanny, who had earlier looked after their mother. When she was 12, her parents died in a train accident when on their way to visit the girls.

Nina studied at Sherborne

School and went on to Somerville College, Oxford, where she obtained a degree in English and Modern Languages. She was passionate about literature and her books covered many walls in her house. Her writing shows not only the breadth of her knowledge, but also the style of one who has lived with the written word.

However, she was determined to become a doctor and she applied to the only medical school that might excuse her lack of mathematical knowledge. In fact, St Bartholomew's granted her an Art scholarship, whilst urging her to improve her mathematics – she had scored only 7 per cent in the test. She went on

to become the first woman editor of the *Bar's Journal*.

After qualification, she worked as a psychiatrist, but found that she was more interested in her patients' emotions and life experiences than in the medical conditions her colleagues focused on. She applied for training in Psychoanalysis and was analysed by Eva Rosenfeld. She qualified as an Associate Member of the British Psychoanalytical Society in 1964, became a Full Member in 1969 and a training analyst in 1971.

Nina Coltart considered herself to have a religious temperament. Having been a devout practising Christian from her late teens, in her late twenties she

stopped believing in God. This led to a spiritual search and she found Buddhism. She supported the monastery at Great Gaddesden in Hertfordshire, and helped to found the Buddhist monastery at Chithurst in Sussex, besides chairing the Hampstead Buddhist group for many years.

She wrote three books, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* (1992), *How to Survive as a Psychotherapist* (1993) and *The Baby and the Bathwater* (1996). These all convey her rich personal clinical experience in her own distinctive voice. She was much sought after as a speaker and had a busy lecturing schedule. She liked travelling and she lectured in the United States,

Australia, New Zealand, Israel and Sweden. She was also a skilled calligrapher and enjoyed opera and embroidery.

In spite of her social skills, her light-heartedness and sense of humour, Nina Coltart was a very private person. She had a large number of people whom she helped in many different ways. She had friends and a wide network of colleagues, but she always described herself as valuing and enjoying living alone.

A. H. Brafman

Nina Elizabeth Carmichael Coltart, psychoanalyst: born Shorland, Kent 21 November 1927; died Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire 24 June 1997.

DEATHS

DAVIDGE: Roger William, of Wantage, scientist and lecturer, died peacefully on 14 August 1997, aged 61 years. Funeral service at Wantage Parish Church, Oxfordshire, on 21 August at 2.30pm.

For Gazette, telephone 0171-293 2011.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Birthdays

Professor Roy Acheson, epidemiologist, 76; Mr Brian Aldiss, science fiction author, 72; Sir Bryan Astow, former chairman, Yorks Regional Health Authority, 67; Dame Josephine Barnes, gynaecologist, 85; Dr Ray Bentley, dermatologist, 88; Sir

James Birrell, former chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 64; Mr Geoffrey Evans, cricketer, 77; Mr Robert Horton, chairman, Railtrack, 58; Dame Moura Lympany, concert pianist, 81; Sir John Mason, former director-general, the Meteorological Office, 74; Mr Hugh Peppitt, chairman, Moorfields Eye Hospital, 67;

Mr Romm Polanski, film director, 64; Sir Humphrey Potts, High Court judge, 66; Mr Robert Redford, film actor, 60; Mr Alain Robbe-Grillet, novelist and film director, 75; Mr Mohammad Sarwar MP, 45; Mr Patrick Swaggy, actor, 43; Mr Cesar Weinberger, former US Secretary of Defense, 80; Mr Charles Wilson,

managing director, Mirror Group, 62; Miss Shelley Winters, film actress, 75.

Anniversaries

Birth: Virginia Dars, first child of English parents to be born in America, 1587. Deaths: Genghis Khan, 1227; Matthew Boulton, engineer,

1809; Anita Loos, screenwriter, novelist and playwright, 1981; Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, architectural historian, 1983. On this day the Russians were defeated by Napoleon at Smolensk, 1812. Today is the Feast Day of St Agapitus, St Aliphus, St Beatrice or Brices da Silva, Saints Florus and Laurus and St Helena.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Susan Barron talks about her work, 2.30pm.

Changing of the Guard

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

كلنا من الأصل

business & city

**FINANCIAL JOURNAL
OF THE YEAR**

 Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
 BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

People hold on to their windfall shares □ Volatile week ahead for equities □ Increase in firms in 'intensive care'

Spending spree short and sweet

 Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Less than a quarter of the £30bn of windfalls from converting building societies will be spent, according to a survey of the mutuals' former members. The research, published today by investment bank Robert Fleming, forecasts a boom in spending on home improvements, holidays and electrical goods, but expects the spending surge to be short-lived.

Though more than £28bn of the total windfall payouts will be injected into the domestic economy, Fleming's research shows that the high import content of this expenditure will dilute the effect on Britain's GDP to 0.5 per cent this year.

Robert Fleming's economic adviser, Peter Warburton, says that with the surge in consumer confidence over the past six months expected to be reversed in the autumn there is no need to push interest rates higher to fend off a feared high street boom. "We found only a small minority of the respondents whose new-found spending confidence will continue at

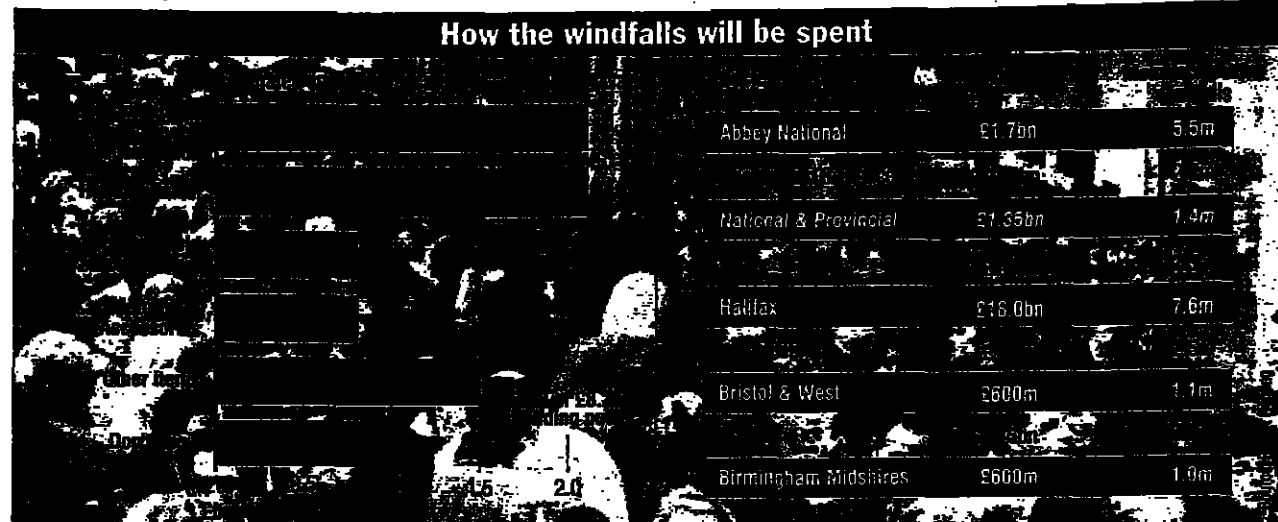
the expense of saving. The surge in consumer confidence is likely to be reversed quite rapidly this autumn."

The findings of the report echo comments from the Bank of England in which it suggested the four quarter-point interest rate rises in as many months would be enough to keep inflation on track to meet its 2.5 per cent target.

The Bank last week announced plans for its own investigation into the economic effects of the windfall factor.

Mr Warburton said: "The comparison with 1988, when real wages rose strongly and home-owners borrowed to excess, is poorly made. On the basis of the survey evidence, there is no case for hitting the consumer with further interest rate increases."

The survey is one of the first to attempt to pinpoint what former building society members have done with the windfalls. It found that 40 per cent of those surveyed have used the money to buy a new car or motorbike, a much greater proportion than older people in the same social class. A quarter of young C2DEs chose to spend their cash on electrical items. There was hardly any preference among ABC1s for electrical goods.



and those such as Northern Rock that were still to come, would release a total of £8.2bn of spending power. Of that, £2.1bn would be spent on home improvements, furnishings and DIY, £2.1bn on holidays and travel and £700m on electrical items for the home.

The detailed breakdown of the survey by age and social class revealed interesting differences

in spending patterns. A fifth of young ABC1 professionals between the ages of 15 and 34 spent most of their windfalls on a car or motorbike, a much greater proportion than older people in the same social class. A quarter of young C2DEs chose to spend their cash on electrical items. There was hardly any preference among ABC1s for electrical goods.

Middle-aged and older people from professional and managerial classes were more likely to use their windfalls to travel. More than three quarters of windfall shares have been saved or used to repay debt. The high savings rate is expected to inject £4bn of new business into the F&P and unit trust industry, but most of the new PEP accounts will be with the con-

verting institutions themselves. Banks and building societies are expected to receive up to a further £4bn of cash inflows. A separate Harris poll of 168 MPs showed three quarters were in favour of maintaining the mutual status of building societies and life companies. The report was commissioned by NPL, the pensions and investment management group.

Markets braced for further falls

Andrew Yates

Dealers are bracing themselves for another volatile week on the world's stock markets following last Friday's near 250-point plunge on Wall Street, its second-biggest one-day fall in London's FTSE 100 index since the 1987 stock market crash.

Analysts expect UK stocks to fall sharply in early trading today in the wake of the drop on Wall Street, which was sparked by worries about US corporate earnings and a drop in the dollar. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 247 points lower at 7695 and the FTSE 100 closed 125.5 down at 4866.

"I think market-makers will mark the stock market down reasonably sharply first thing on Monday, probably by another 50 points or so, and then there will be a pause," said Richard Jeffrey, an economist at Charterhouse Tilney. "The market will wait to see whether there's any buying interest at those sorts of levels. If there isn't, I think it will see a secondary markdown, or it might just bounce a little and wait for Wall Street to open."

Market jitters will be compounded by fears that US, German and UK interest rates may have to rise. On Tuesday the US Federal Open Market Committee meets, although analysts believe it will leave interest rates unchanged.

However, there is a growing concern the German central bank, the Bundesbank, might

raise base rates on Thursday. The UK government is also expected to announce on Wednesday that annual retail sales grew by as much as 6 per cent in July, heightening fears that the economy is overheating and raising the spectre of higher interest rates.

Equity markets have recently scaled new heights in the UK and analysts were divided over whether Friday's fall marked a temporary blip or the beginning of a prolonged bear market.

"The markets are overvalued. It wouldn't surprise me to see the UK market fall back by another 10 per cent over the course of the summer and autumn," Mr Jeffrey said.

However, most analysts believe that although the fluctuations of the past few days may continue over the coming weeks, a crash on the scale of 1987 is not about to happen.

One senior equity strategist said the market, which had run away with itself in recent weeks, was looking overvalued and the fall was needed to calm things down. Other observers saw the share price fall as offering some buying opportunities. "At 5,100, cash was looking a safer bet, but at these levels, I'll pick up the phone and advise clients to get back into stocks," said Robert Buckland, UK stock strategist at HSBC James Capel.

Buyers are expected to continue to favour second-tier industrial firms over blue-chip stocks.

Retailers among rising number of insolvency cases

 Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Insolvency practitioners and the "intensive care" departments of some of the large high street banks are reporting an increase in the number of companies coming on to their books, even as the economy experiences a 1980s-style consumer boom.

The Society of Insolvency Practitioners says activity has

increased in the past six months, with hi-tech companies and retailers the most prevalent, along with small and medium-sized public quoted companies which have become stretched trying to fulfil market expectations.

Murdoch McKillop, a corporate recovery partner at Arthur Anderson and vice president of the Society of Insolvency Practitioners, says: "Our members are seeing evidence of

an upturn in the last six months. But people should not be surprised about that. It is just part of the economic cycle."

Barclays Bank has reported a "modest increase" in the number of companies being placed in its rescue and recovery units in the past few months. It says it has seen a number of retail groups experiencing difficulties due to competition on the high street and their inability to pass

on price rises. Many hi-tech firms have been overwhelmed by the rapid pace of technological change and poor management.

Ivan Armstrong, leading services director with responsibility for corporate support and recoveries, says: "The numbers on our books are less than a year ago, but higher than they were three months ago." He said the numbers had increased by 5 to 10 per cent since the spring.

Other lenders such as Lloyds TSB and NatWest said they had not seen any rise, as did Midland, though industry experts said they felt Midland may have experienced some increase.

Mr McKillop said the rise of sterling had affected some manufacturing businesses with a significant export operation. He added that following the recent surge in the level of takeovers, buy-outs and flotations,

it was inevitable some increase in failures would follow. Figures show the number of administrative receivership appointments are down to their lowest point since 1989.

Separately, a survey published today by KPMG corporate recovery shows that senior directors believe poor management and under-capitalisation are responsible for the majority of company failures.

IN BRIEF

Pay awards in manufacturing stay stable

Manufacturing pay awards have remained broadly stable, according to figures compiled by the Confederation of British Industry. The latest CBI Pay Databank survey shows that pay awards in the manufacturing sector provisionally averaged 3.3 per cent for the three months ending June 1997. This is a slight increase on the 3.2 per cent averaged for the previous quarter. Almost 40 per cent of manufacturers said their inability to increase prices was keeping pay awards down. A quarter identified low profits while 19 per cent stated the low rise in the cost of living.

Job losses expected at Laura Ashley

Laura Ashley, the struggling retail group, is expected to announce several hundred job losses at its manufacturing plants in Wales when it issues a trading statement this week. The company employs almost 900 people in factories serving its clothing and home furnishing divisions. Though the home furnishing side is expected to be unaffected, cuts are expected among the 500 employed in garment manufacture. Analysts are expecting the trading update to include a warning on profits. The City will look for details on how £1m-a-year chief executive Ann Iverson plans to address the problems at the company, which has seen its shares plunge to just 61p from a 12-month high of 220.5p.

National Grid to float Energis

National Grid is planning a £1bn-plus flotation of Energis, its telecoms arm, by the end of the year after failing to tie up a partnership with international groups such as AT&T. National Grid has invested £575m in Energis, creating a low-cost telecoms business by installing fibre-optic cables alongside its electricity network. Energis provides telephone and Internet services to businesses. The flotation will allow it to step up its competition with the likes of BT and Mercury. But the plans are at an early stage and it is unclear how much new money will be raised and what percentage of the group National Grid will sell to outside investors.

Ageing people to unbalance economies

Ageing populations will lead to a European financial revolution in the first half of the 21st century as dramatic swings in saving patterns knock economies off course, according to Lloyd's Bank. The bank's economists calculate that, over the next 15 years, working Europeans will save large amounts to compensate for future shortcomings in their state pensions. But then saving levels will plunge as the growing elderly population uses accumulated funds to finance old age. The saving surge could cause an economic slowdown and perhaps recession in Germany, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.

Primary Management buys two firms

Primary Management, the facilities management arm of the Gardiner & Theobald catering group, has acquired KS Building Services and Genesis Facilities Management for an undisclosed sum. The two companies have been acquired from the KS Group, which specialises in building repair, cleaning and security services.

Bid war on the cards as sector giants stalk First Leisure

Andrew Yates

Predators are believed to be circling First Leisure, the bingo to nightclub group run by Michael Grade, former head of Channel 4. But Mr Grade is thought to be keen to maintain First Leisure's independence, having only just taken over the group, which was founded by his uncle, Lord Delfont.

Speculation is mounting that Bass, the brewing and leisure group, is considering a £630m takeover bid, a substantial premium to First Leisure's market capitalisation of just £509m. City observers believe Rank, the Hard Rock Cafe to bingo group, is also interested in First Leisure and may join a bidding war for First Leisure if Bass makes a formal approach.

However, First Leisure has

indicated bidders would have to offer a much higher price than £650m to stand any chance of success. "A £650m bid would get short shrift from First Leisure. It would mean a short-term gain for shareholders but Michael Grade has plans to make this a much bigger company," a spokesman said yesterday.

Nevertheless, now would be a good time for predators to strike as First Leisure's shares have slumped from a 376p high earlier this year to 311p and have significantly underperformed the market and the leisure sector over the past 12 months.

Research published this year by leisure analysts at NatWest Securities suggested First Leisure would be an attractive bid target for Bass and other large international leisure groups. First Leisure recently an-

nounced a fall in profits for the half year to April from £18.1m to £17.2m. But Mr Grade is keen to prove he can turn around the group which owns a diverse set of leisure attractions from the Blackpool Tower to Brannigans music bars.

He has already announced a wide-ranging shake-up by installing new management from Rank. He is also looking to expand its health and fitness division following the acquisition of the Riverside chain of clubs.

Bass declined to comment on the market speculation but is thought to be keen to pull off an acquisition after the Government blocked its bid for Carlsberg-Tetley, which would have made it the UK's largest brewer. It is also still in the running to buy bookmaker

William Hill from Brent Walker. Analysts believe the bookie could fetch more than £650m. Bass has reached the final bid stages but is facing stiff competition from Cin Ven, the venture capitalist.

If Bass is unsuccessful in acquiring either business it is likely to concentrate on its international operations. It plans to expand its Chinese brewing interests and is thought ready to take its themed-bar chains such as All Bar One to continental Europe.

Mr Grade is currently looking at ways to expand First Leisure's leisure interests. "We will consider anything. I want to make this company more innovative and to encourage people to come to me with new ideas," he said at the time of the interim results announcement.



Michael Grade: Keen to keep First Leisure independent

Wacker theories of being and time

Roger Trapp

At first sight, Watts Wacker's theories look about as strange as his name. As set down in *The 500-Year Delta: What Happens After What Comes Next*, they appear to amount to disjointed outpourings on such seemingly unconnected subjects as physics, philosophy and ancient history.

But the US has been lapping it up, and the book, co-authored with Jim Taylor, global marketing director for the computer company Gateway 2000, and journalist Howard Means, has just been published in the UK.

Wacker, described recently as "a 43-year-old blond teddy bear", attributes some of this

success to a growing interest in the future as the millennium approaches. But he takes an original approach.

The idea, he explains, is to provoke rather than instruct. As such he likens his role to that of a court jester. "My job is to poke holes into things that are apparent." Insisting he has no ambition to be king or king-maker, he says he can whisper things that get others heeded.

Conversely, given he is constantly pointing out that the ever-increasing pace of change has created chaos in place of order, he preaches that companies must, above all, aim to survive. "The definition of a successful company is being," he says,

adding that, in the effort to survive, the US firm General Electric, for example, now makes a significant proportion of its profits from financial services.

The companies that do not evolve like this are in denial, believes Wacker, who has worked with such clients as Coca-Cola, Volvo, Nike and Gateway 2000. And it is his job to disturb the complacency of those who are convinced that their success will continue for ever.

Conscious that many executives are immune from the world around them he seeks to introduce them to trends and changes in attitudes and, above all, the idea that companies must become demand-led, in the

way that Gateway is in building personal computers to order.

Once a company has a proper sense of the world and its place in it, it can set out its goals. This leads to the title. Wacker says companies should forget five-year business plans and prepare ones to last half a century.

The second part of the title is a *double entendre* - "delta" is Greek for change and refers to the area at the end of a river which can be water, swamp or more solid land. "For us," he says, "crossing the delta is perilous because you can't tell whether it's quicksand or terra firma."

The 500-Year Delta is published by Capstone at £15.99

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100									
Index	Close	Week's chg	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	YTD High	YTD Low	YTD Chg	YTD %
FTSE 100	4865.80	-185.5	-3.8	5085.80	4058.80	5400	3400	3.40	3.40
FTSE 250	4888.20	-47.7	-1.0	4728.40	4388.20	5300	3300	3.53	3.53
FTSE 350	2355.90	-59.9	-2.5	2438.00	2017.90	3400	2400	3.42	3.42
FT Small Cap	2243.41	-33.6	-1.5	2374.20	2178.29	3400	2400	3.20	3.20
FT All Share	2302.40	-22.4	-1.0	2376.39	1989.78	3400	2400	3.21	3.21
New York	7684.66	-336.5	-4.3	8258.31	6032.94	1.61			
Tokyo	18326.03	-278.4	-1.5	20681.07	17303.85	0.811			
Hong Kong	18096.88	-580.7	-3.2	19673.27	12055.17	2.721			
Frankfurt	4152.05	-201.3	-4.6	4438.93	2848.77	1.311			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
UK	7.08	7.44	7.09	7.82	7.12	7.95			
US	5.56	5.97	6.27	6.58	6.58	6.81			
Japan	0.99	0.69	2.08	3.18					
Germany	3.16	3.58	5.68	6.29	6.39				
US interest rates									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
US	5.56	5.97	6.27	6.58	6.58	6.81			
Japan	0.99	0.69	2.08	3.18					
Germany	3.16	3.58	5.68	6.29	6.39				
Bond Yields %									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
UK	7.08	7.44	7.09	7.82	7.12	7.95			
US	5.56	5.97	6.27	6.58	6.58	6.81			
Japan	0.99	0.69	2.08	3.18					
Germany	3.16	3.58	5.68	6.29	6.39				
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
UK	7.08	7.44	7.09	7.82	7.12	7.95			
US	5.56	5.97	6.27	6.58	6.58	6.81			
Japan	0.99	0.69	2.08	3.18					
Germany	3.16	3.58	5.68	6.29	6.39				
CURRENCIES									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
UK	7.08	7.44	7.09	7.82	7.12	7.95			
US	5.56	5.97	6.27	6.58	6.58	6.81			
Japan	0.99	0.69	2.08	3.18					
Germany	3.16	3.58	5.68	6.29	6.39				

CURRENCIES									
£/\$									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
£/\$	1.6101	+3.17%	1.5506	0.8211	-1.25	0.8448			
£/¥	1.5095	+1.9%	1.5515	0.8224	-0.74	0.8445			
DM/\$	2.9276	+0.29%	2.9036	1.8183	-3.48%	1.4856			
¥/£	188.473	+75.56%	187.349	¥/£	117.080	+1.180	107.83		
£/DM	102.1	+0.8	84.8	£/DM	106.3	+0.4	96.2		
OTHER INDICATORS									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
US Bond	18.92	+0.42	19.59	FPI	157.5	+0.00%	152.4	08 Sep	
DM \$	324.56	-1.0	386.20	GDP	112.8	+3.8%	109.1	21 Aug	
£/\$	201.57	-4.88	249.13	Base Rates	7.00%				

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

With effect from 1 September 1997, for both new and existing customers, the following rates will increase to:

Mortgage Rate 8.45% per annum

100% Mortgage Rate 8.95% per annum

Flexible Choice Mortgage Rate 7.70% per annum

Royal Premier Mortgage Rate 7.70% per annum

news



Constable's England crumbles under feet of heritage tourists

Ian Burrell and Stephen Goodwin

As the green waters of the Stour slowly drifted past Willy Lott's cottage yesterday, the cattle grazed by the river bank and the classic vista of the English countryside appeared almost as John Constable captured it 156 years ago.

Yet soon the image which Constable ingrained in the public consciousness with *The Haywain*, and other landscapes painted at Flatford on the Essex-Suffolk border, may no longer exist in real life.

For such is the damage caused by the thousands of

trampling tourists who now converge on "Constable Country" each year, that conservationists say the scene might be disfigured beyond recognition.

Similar fears are extended to the futures of heritage sites all over Britain, crumbling under the marching feet of mass tourism.

This crisis is part of a global problem which has rendered such wonders as the Sistine Chapel and the *Mona Lisa* almost worthless as public spectacles, such is the crush of people around them.

At Flatford, some local people have become so distressed that they have asked council officials to take them off the map.

It is a sad fate for a piece of land once owned by Constable's father, Golding, a prosperous merchant, and described in loving terms by the painter himself, who said: "But I should paint my own places best... I associate my own places best to all that lies on the banks of the Stour. They made me a painter... that is, I had often thought of pictures of them before I had ever touched a pencil."

But such was his ability to translate the landscape on to canvas that the urge to see the real Flatford has proved irresistible.

The result, said the Countryside Commission last week, is that local villages are being

swamped, footpaths worn out and the narrow country lanes jammed with cars and coaches.

In Britain as a whole, tourism now yields £36bn a year from 25 million foreign visitors.

Then there are the day-trippers. Improved transport facilities, increased leisure time and shorter attention spans have encouraged a culture in which more and more people spend their spare time hurrying between a check-list of attractions, queuing and jostling for barely a glimpse of each.

It is a phenomenon described by Chris Green, the chief executive of English Heritage, as "a modern madness".

As a result, the ancient floor of Canterbury Cathedral is being seriously damaged by the tread of 100,000 visitors a day. Stratford-upon-Avon now has a visitor to resident ratio of 188:1, comparable to that for Venice.

The ceiling in the library of the 220-year-old Haworth Parsonage, home of the Brontë sisters, is buckling under the weight of the 100,000 annual visitors passing through an exhibition in the room upstairs.

And Hadrian's Wall is disappearing at the rate of an inch a year, as many of the 250,000 annual visitors insist on climbing on to the three-metre thick structure and acting the role of Roman legionary.

The "carpet pedestrianisation" associated with cities such as Venice is now happening in London, Cambridge, Canter-

bury and Chester. At the same time, the countryside is being choked by an ever-increasing army of trippers headed for Hardy Country in Dorset, Herriot Country in the Yorkshire Dales or Constable Country at Flatford.

Yet tourism is a great money-earner, and as Adele Biss, chairman of the British Tourist Board, has pointed out: "Tourism in many areas, with our encouragement, provides much-needed revenue for conservation and regeneration projects in our historic towns, our stately homes and our countryside that is not forthcoming from other sources."

Instead of merely driving the tourists away, it is argued, they should be made to contribute towards the maintenance of the attraction they are visiting.

At Haworth, an increase in admission prices has had the helpful side-effect of discouraging the more casual Brontë visitors and keeping numbers to a manageable level.

But in many areas of the countryside, trippers have traditionally been able to avoid paying anything towards the cost of their visit.

A new report, produced for the European Commission by English consultants, calls for the introduction of "visitor pay-back" schemes in all national parks, whereby all visitors would be encouraged to make a voluntary contribution.

In the Peak District, the busiest national park in England, 74 per cent of visitors agreed with the principle. The park already seeks to collect small sums from as many of the

22 million visitors a year as possible, with parking meters being adapted to accept donations as well as standard fees.

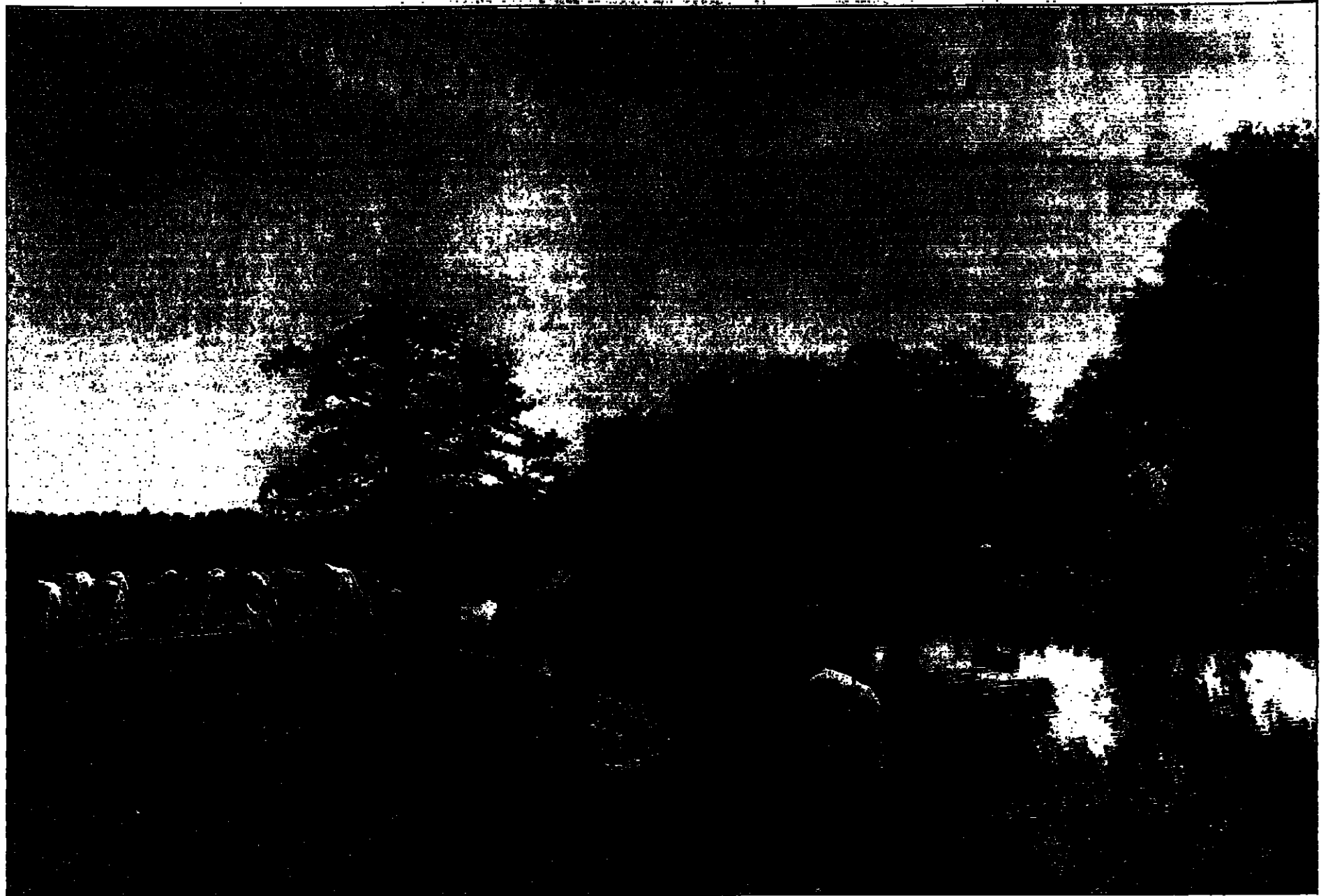
The authors found that the main stumbling block for the idea was the level of resistance among hotels and other tourist-dependent businesses, which were worried about discouraging visitors.

But the potential for visitor pay-back is enormous. A fund set up in 1985 to collect donations from visitors to the spectacular Yosemite National Park in the United States now collects \$1m a year.

So, perhaps, a Constable National Park, entered via a voluntary toll-gate, could yet ensure that one of the most enduring images of the English countryside will live on as more than just oil on canvas.

Where life meets art: Constable's original (above left) and the same scene, on the Essex-Suffolk border, as it is today

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz



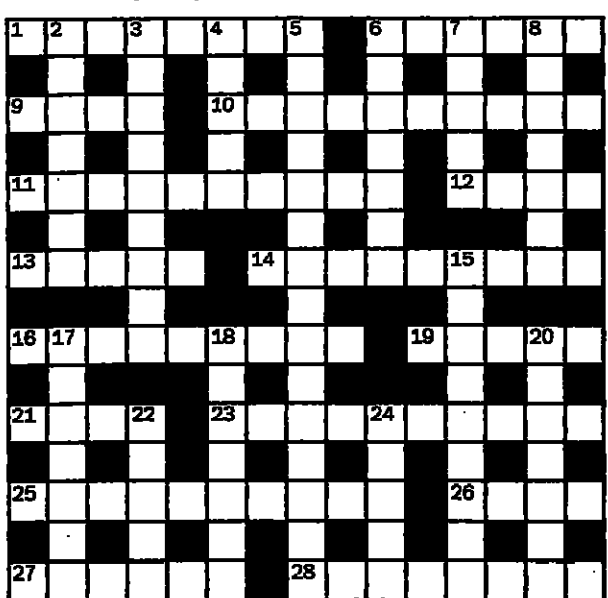
Daytrippers: Tourists at Flatford Mill, where Constable painted *The Haywain*

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3380 Monday 18 August

By Porcia



- ACROSS**
- 1 Musician brought round a string composition (8)
 - 6 Cancel article when check's carried out (6)
 - 9 Caught American involved in soldier's dishonest scheme (4)
 - 10 One points to upper class imbalance (10)
 - 11 Do discern change of key in it that's deliberate (10)
 - 12 Dog brush (4)
 - 13 Highly isolated place - sounds creepy (5)
 - 14 Not much of a conversation? (5, 4)
 - 16 Pull out steaming mass (9)
 - 19 Head leaves to come out and join forces (5)
 - 21 River in 'Tahiti's Islands (4)
 - 23 Get lower rise (10)

- 25 Independent Conservative going in to oust solicitor (10)
- 26 Impede movement as wheel's out of line (4)
- 27 Royal house boy (6)
- 28 Till then is forever (8)
- DOWN**
- 2 Living accommodation? (7)
- 3 Bill's calling for an acknowledgement of error (9)
- 4 Spanish artist comes back without one epic work (5)
- 5 He'd read Milton's poem initially, all about Paradise (3,8,3)
- 6 Song cycle of note many are attached to (7)
- 7 Steer Greek character towards items for sale (5)
- 8 Height of insect activity? (3,4)
- 15 Backwoods man remains behind troop leader (3, 6)
- 17 We hear a sailor's offensive (7)
- 18 He's travelling as far as ancient city one way (7)
- 20 Tempestuous lagoon key to Italian attraction (7)
- 22 Takes off being upset about one old photograph (5)
- 24 Proportion of share's cut by a quarter (5)

Contrary to a widely held belief, some of our passengers don't pay a

Penny.

Those with enough Quia-River miles. A generous helping can be obtained from airlines, car hire, hotels, motor shops. For yourself or a friend.

swissair + world's most refreshing airline.

A mortgage quote in 10 minutes? Beat that.



Call TSB PhoneBank free and within just 10 minutes, you'll

know how much you can borrow.

Best do it now, because it's good to know how much ammunition

you've got before you go hunting.

CALL FREE 0500 758 000
Quoting ref INQ2

Mortgage Quotation Line

TSB We want you to say YES

Only may be completed and received. A TSB Cheque account is required. Assignment/transfer of a suitable life policy may be required by the Bank as security. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. All loans subject to credit checks. Not available in the Channel Islands. Written questions are available on request by calling 0500 758 000. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc are representatives of the TSB Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority only for TSB life insurance, pensions, unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice or recommendations relate only to the investments of the TSB Marketing Group. TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB. Registered in England and Wales. Number 1409298. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Dancer House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JL. Registered in Scotland. Number 98237.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

هذا من الأصل